



**Kansas Hospital  
ASSOCIATION**

TO: House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development  
FROM: Jaron Caffrey, Project Manager of Workforce Strategies  
DATE: February 15, 2023  
RE: House Bill 2400 - Proponent

The Kansas Hospital Association appreciates the opportunity to provide support for House Bill 2400.

Kansas has seen a significant decline in the public college going rate over the last several years. In fact, the going rate in 2014 was 55.2% but declined to 44.8% in 2020. With fewer high school graduates pursuing post-secondary education, this creates real impacts on many industries, particularly health care. While organizations like ours make it a key pillar of our strategic goals to increase awareness of health care careers and promote those opportunities to students of all ages, additional incentives for students to obtain an education after high school is crucial – including those students that may be returning to the classroom at later points in their careers. That is why we are pleased to support House Bill 2400.

This bill would enact the Kansas adult learner grant to facilitate workforce development by providing grants and workforce retention incentive payments to Kansas adults in various fields of study, including health care and nursing. This proposal builds off of the progress made the last few years with expanding scholarship opportunities to encourage more students, both traditional and non-traditional, to obtain a degree in career areas that are of high demand to our Kansas workforce.

Non-traditional students are more likely to leave school due to conflicting responsibilities or due to a lack of support from their programs. HB 2400 proposes an integral component of ensuring those students can make the jump into a post-secondary program without as heavy of a burden on the financial costs of going to school. Additionally, this funding following the student through the entirety of their program instead of being just a one-time scholarship is a crucial element to ensuring that this maximizes its effectiveness.

It's more important now than ever for industry and education to work hand in hand to ensure we provide opportunities for those seeking to advance themselves and their careers by obtaining a post-secondary degree, regardless of the student's age. This is a step in the right direction to help build the supply of our workforce.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.