



KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Proponent Testimony on SB 552

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of SB 552. This bill would provide a dedicated funding source from FY 2026- FY 2036 of \$100,000 per year for each community college, technical college, and Washburn to address deferred maintenance and building needs. The buildings on these campuses are not state buildings, they are locally owned and maintained, but mission critical to the state's need for a trained and skilled workforce. This bill would be the first funding dedicated to deferred maintenance needs on our campuses.

Last year the Kansas community colleges all took part in a roofing assessment to determine the age and years to replace our roofs. Every campus had varied needs, but several significant needs were identified costing millions of dollars across the state and projecting our needs for years to come. Each community college has a locally elected board of trustees who is charged with the fiduciary responsibility for the college along with the college's buildings and property. These funds will help ensure that local property taxpayers in 18 counties don't shoulder the entire cost of the maintenance on these facilities.

These funds will be incredibly helpful as we pursue our mission to best serve our communities and Kansas businesses. We do respectfully request that an amendment be considered to section four of the bill which would require the community colleges, technical colleges, and Washburn to develop a five-year comprehensive building plan including any needed rehabilitation and repairs as well as any needed building eliminations or additions. In section four the bill contemplates that the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) would APPROVE these plans. However, as coordinated not governed institutions by KBOR, it is more appropriate for each colleges individual board to approve their colleges plan and then after approval that plan would be submitted to KBOR.

We also respectfully request to be exempted from Section 6 of the bill as rules and regulations seem more appropriate for the Governed Regents Universities and the role of determining what is mission critical is the role of the local governing board rather than KBOR. A annual report of progress to KBOR is very appropriate and could take the place of this section for the coordinated institutions.

Again, thank you for this opportunity which will make a true difference on our campuses for years to come, not only for our students but for the thousands of community members who use our facilities each year for various events. We will be a good steward of the resources to ensure these buildings continue to benefit Kansas for generations to come.

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