



March 18, 2024

The Honorable Molly Baumgardner, Chairperson
 Senate Committee on Education
 300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 144-S
 Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Baumgardner:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 544 by Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation

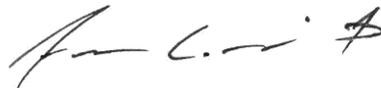
In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 544 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 544 would enact the Kansas Academic Excellence Scholarship Program (KAESP) Act, which would replace the Kansas Ethnic Minority Scholarship Program. The KAESP would provide financial assistance through the awarding of academic excellence scholarships to Kansas scholars who have demonstrated academic excellence. The bill would amend and remove various definitions. SB 544 would take effect upon its publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Estimated State Fiscal Effect			
	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Expenditures			
State General Fund	--	\$1,700,000	\$1,700,000
Fee Fund(s)	--	--	--
Federal Fund	--	--	--
Total Expenditures	--	\$1,700,000	\$1,700,000
Revenues			
State General Fund	--	--	--
Fee Fund(s)	--	--	--
Federal Fund	--	--	--
Total Revenues	--	--	--
FTE Positions	--	--	--

The Kansas Board of Regents estimates additional funding of \$1.7 million from the State General Fund in both FY 2025 and FY 2026 would be needed if the bill is enacted. According to the Board, the current State General Fund appropriation for the Kansas Ethnic Minority Scholarship is \$296,498, which has not been enough to fund qualified applicants. The Board states SB 544 would expand the number of qualified applicants and the agency estimates the number of eligible applicants and scholarship renewals would exceed the current appropriation for the Kansas Ethnic Minority Scholarship. The Board indicates administration of the Kansas Academic Excellence Scholarship could be absorbed within existing resources. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 544 is not reflected in *The FY 2025 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam C. Proffitt", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adam C. Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Becky Pottebaum, Board of Regents