



**PROPONENT Testimony on HB 2645
For the Senate Education Committee
March 6, 2024**

**Matt Lindsey
President, Kansas Independent College Association**

Chair Baumgardner and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony related to House Bill 2645.

Kansas' Independent Colleges:

KICA represents all twenty-one accredited undergraduate degree-granting private non-profit colleges of Kansas. The members of KICA are all *independent* of KBOR. KBOR has no governing role (as it does for the six 4-year Regents universities), coordinating role (as it does for the community colleges, technical colleges, and Washburn University) nor general regulatory role (as it does for any for-profit college or college based outside of Kansas that wishes to operate here) regarding the KICA institutions, however we do seek to work in coordination with the public colleges and universities on issues that affect Kansas.

KICA and the Nursing Service Scholarship:

KICA supports the Nursing Service Scholarship. Multiple KICA institutions have strong bachelor's degrees in nursing and annually KICA institutions award more than 34% of the bachelor's degrees in nursing awarded in the entire state. Thus, we are grateful that our students qualify for this scholarship. Each year, KICA students receive an average of less than \$100,000 in nursing service scholarship funds from this program.

We appreciated the Board of Regents reaching out to us to review the proposed changes in HB 2645 prior to the bill's introduction. We believe the bill represents a positive step in the administration of the scholarship and do not object to the proposed changes, with the hope that the scholarship continues to be one that all students – public and private college students alike – can benefit from as they pursue their nursing career.

We have also reviewed the changes made in the House Education Committee and are comfortable with those.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on this bill. I am happy to answer any questions you may have or provide additional data as you request.