



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

Senate Committee on Ways and Means Proponent Testimony on HB 2290

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Good morning, Chair Billinger, and Members of the Committee. This testimony is submitted in support of HB 2290. Our System has had several successful affiliations - Washburn University and the Washburn Institute of Technology and Wichita State University and WSU Tech.

When the 1999 Legislature created the Higher Education Coordination Act, you established a framework within which the Board of Regents coordinates across the entire public postsecondary education system. Our students now benefit from 116 courses that are guaranteed to transfer throughout our entire system and public institutions are developing more 2+2 coordinated academic programs that will shorten students' time to earn a degree.

The Kansas Board of Regents supports this legislation that has three main provisions: The technical colleges in this legislation would operate under the management of Fort Hays State University, change the names of the technical colleges to include Fort Hays State in their name, and the governing bodies of both Northwest Kansas Technical College and North Central Kansas Technical College will become advisory boards. Both Northwest Kansas Technical College and North Central Kansas Technical College will continue functioning as independent technical colleges with their unique federal designation, but within the operational structure of Fort Hays State University.

This affiliation will further bolster the longstanding partnership already in place between these institutions and improve access and opportunities for these students.

With this affiliation, the Board encourages Northwest Kansas Technical College, North Central Kansas Technical College and Fort Hays State University to further leverage their resources to expand access and opportunity to Kansas students, and are pleased that this proposal has been brought forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

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