



Mission Valley

Ag Ed/FFA

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March 22, 2017

Dear Rep. Larry Campbell, Chairman; Kansas House K-12 Budget Committee Members:

I write to you as an educator and product of Career and Technical Education (CTE). Every day, I witness students grow and benefit from the same professional, technical and personal growth that I did as a student of CTE. These technical skills, which I will expand on, require provisions in the forms of funding. I stand opposed to the portion of HB 2410 *that eliminates the weighted funding formula for CTE approved secondary level CTE programs and partially redirects those funds to non-CTE programming.*

CTE is Significant

On March 12, 1917, our state started funding vocational education courses (now called CTE) in HB 886. For 100 years, our state has benefitted from a work force that job a start in secondary-level funded CTE.

Our state has a special economy that is fueled by technically related careers. Agriculture, aviation, STEM, business, human health, manufacturing, culinary and human services are all high skill, high wage jobs that are hard to fill in our state. These classrooms take more funding that a traditional classroom.

At Mission Valley, 94% of our 8-12 student body is enrolled in a state approved CTE pathway. Students in Ag Education, Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS, formerly Home Economics) and Business courses are exposed to real world career skills. For an example, my Ag Engineering students are working on designing and building robotic devices. They take skills from previous courses within their pathway, such as welding, milling, material science and electricity and apply it to a 21st Century STEM application. Through that pathway, students were involved in several technical skills that come with a price tag higher than its core classroom counterpart.

Why Weighted Funding?

Weighted funding provides fluidity of proportion to base student aid. It allows for CTE funding to grow as base student aid is hopefully increased.

The FFA Mission

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

Dual Credit and Distance Learning is not CTE

HB 2410 approves CTE funds to be used for the following non-CTE items:

- Post-secondary courses (Page 48, line 3)
- Courses provided through distance-learning technology (Page 48, line 4)

Currently, HB2410 does not restrict post-secondary courses (dual-credit courses) to CTE specific training. A student taking College Algebra should not receive funding for their dual-credit courses, through funding specifically intended for CTE programs. I am all in favor to students participating in dual-credit courses for their core credits; however, the state's industry is best served if these funds are directly attributed to CTE courses specifically. The Governor's CTE Bill that was passed in 2012, SB 155, provided funding for qualified CTE post-secondary courses. Those funds should be used to continue to support that endeavor. Including those funds with district level CTE funds would further muddy the waters for CTE teachers to budget for a fiscal year.

Distance-learning courses are most often used for credit recovering, dual-credit courses or specialized language courses. Funding distance-learning courses should only happen if the distance course was through an approved CTE program and aligned with a pathway.

Requested Action

I ask that the House K-12 Education Budget Committee amends HB 2410 to include the following:

- Continue weighted funding for CTE programs with approved pathways.
- Redirect CTE funds from the general fund (as appropriated to school districts) into CTE specific funds.
- Restrict funding for CTE funding to be specific to classroom materials, industry relevant technology, equipment and service/repairs of equipment. These funds shall not be used for: online learning or dual credit courses.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony,

Signed,



John Bergin
Mission Valley Agricultural Educator/FFA Advisor
Kansas Association of Agricultural Educators (KAAE), Member
Kansas Association of Career and Technical Education (KACTE), Member
Product of Kansas Ag Education and Family and Consumer Sciences Education

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