



**PROPONENT Testimony on HB 2011
For the House Taxation Committee
February 12, 2019
Matt Lindsey
President, Kansas Independent College Association**

Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of House Bill 2011 on behalf of Kansas' independent colleges.

Kansas' Independent Colleges:

KICA represents the nineteen independent colleges of Kansas, all of which are not-for-profit institutions of higher education, all of which offer undergraduate degrees, all of which have their principal campus in Kansas, all of whom are regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, and all of whom maintain an open enrollment policy consistent with Kansas statutes.

The state of Kansas, via the Kansas Board of Regents, has specific obligations governing "private and out-of-state" educational institutions, per the Private and Out-of-State Post-Secondary Educational Institutions Act. All nineteen KICA institutions are exempt from that statute. Thus, for the independent members of KICA, 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 regulatory role (as it does for any for-profit college or college based outside of Kansas that wishes to operate here). Furthermore, KICA institutions do not receive any direct institution funding from the state of Kansas, as befits our independent status.

Textbook Costs at KICA Institutions:

Nearly 25,000 students attend one of our independent colleges. Last year, those students spend an average of \$1,216 per year on required textbooks. HB 2011 would thus save each student an average of nearly \$80 per year.

Providing even this relatively small amount of assistance to students and their families will help them afford a college degree. One of the biggest impediments to college completion – especially on-time completion – is affordability. Moreover, multiple studies indicate that students often delay acquiring the course materials and textbooks due to financial concerns and that delay has significant negative consequences on the students' learning and successful course completion (further delaying degree attainment).

For these reasons, KICA and its member institutions urge you to endorse House Bill 2011. Thank you for the opportunity to come before you on this issue. I am happy to answer any questions you may have or provide additional data as you request.