



# KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

1000 SW JACKSON • SUITE 520 • TOPEKA, KS 66612-1368

TELEPHONE – 785-296-3421  
FAX – 785-296-0983  
[www.kansasregents.org](http://www.kansasregents.org)

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## **BOARD OF REGENTS ISSUES STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

(TOPEKA) – Today Reginald L. Robinson, President and CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents, issued the following statement regarding House Concurrent Resolution 5035, a resolution pertaining to academic freedom, which was heard by the Kansas House Appropriations Committee today:

“The Board shares the Legislature's interest in protecting the foundation that the state's higher education system is built upon - that of academic freedom. The state's universities have been working for well over a hundred years to protect and strengthen this core principle. In fact, the Board of Regents and the state's universities already have in place strong policies to protect and advance academic freedom.

In addition, it is critically important to remember in this context that the best and most appropriate guarantors of academic freedom are the state's higher educational institutions themselves. While Legislative interest in this area is understandable, even the most carefully-crafted move toward State involvement in this realm poses risks that could undermine the very academic freedom values we all cherish. We have been discussing these issues with Legislators and we look forward to continuing those discussions around these important issues.”

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*For more information contact  
Kip Peterson, Director of Government Relations & Communications, at (785) 296-3421.*

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