



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

HOUSE FEDERAL & STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE February 9, 2011

Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 2006

Dr. Andy Tompkins, President & CEO

Chairman Brunk, Ranking Member Loganbill, and Members of the Committee, I am here on behalf of the Kansas Board of Regents to testify in opposition to House Bill 2006, legislation that would repeal K.S.A. 76-731a – the law enacted by the 2004 Legislature that allows certain undocumented immigrants to attend the state’s public postsecondary institutions at in-state rates. As you may know, the Board strongly supported the adoption of this law when it was approved in 2004, and the Board has strongly opposed subsequent efforts to repeal it.

Under the provisions of the law, an individual who is enrolled or has been accepted for admission at a postsecondary educational institution shall be deemed to be a resident of Kansas for the purpose of tuition and fees for attendance if the individual: A) has attended an accredited Kansas high school for three or more years; B) has either graduated from an accredited Kansas high school or has earned a general educational development (GED) certificate issued within Kansas, regardless of whether the person is or is not a citizen of the United States of America; and C) in the case of a person without lawful immigration status, has filed with the postsecondary educational institution an affidavit stating that the person or the person’s parents have filed an application to legalize such person’s immigration status, or such person will file such an application as soon as such person is eligible to do so or, in the case of a person with a legal, nonpermanent immigration status, has filed with the postsecondary educational institution an affidavit stating that such person has filed an application to begin the process for citizenship of the United States or will file such application as soon as such person is eligible to do so.

It is important to clarify what this law is and what it is not. This law does NOT allow undocumented immigrant students to attend public postsecondary institutions for free. These students, who come from our state’s high schools, must still pay tuition. They must pay the same tuition that their high school classmates pay as they attend our state’s colleges and universities. In fact, these students, due to their immigration status, are NOT eligible for ANY state or federal student financial aid. These students bear the entire burden of the cost of attendance, no matter how evident or significant their financial need.

The Board supports this law because it embodies the concept of expanded educational opportunity for people who live in Kansas, and who seek to enhance their ability to contribute to the well-being of our state and its economy.

★ LEADING HIGHER EDUCATION ★

The Board supports this law because it believes it enhances the likelihood that students who either graduate from Kansas high schools or earn state-issued GED certificates will attend one of the state's institutions of higher education.

The Board supports this law because the students who benefit from this provision are students who, but for the opportunity this law presents, would be unable to pay the out-of-state tuition that would be required of them. Also, considering the small number of students who take advantage of this law, we do not feel that this law is attracting students to Kansas. Information regarding the number of students currently benefiting from the law is attached to my testimony. We believe the increases in enrollment have been largely due to increases in the population of students in K-12 schools and the number of those students who have completed three years of high school and want to seek postsecondary education. The reality is that these students would be unable to bear these additional costs and would lose their opportunity to advance their education, and the state would lose the many benefits from the enhanced contributions these students would make as a result of the education they would obtain.

The Board supports this law because it believes that given the remarkably competitive and increasingly global economic environment that confronts us, Kansas truly needs a highly educated workforce if it is to remain competitive and reach its full potential.

According to a recent study by Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce:

- Between 2008 and 2018, new jobs in Kansas requiring postsecondary education and training will grow by 99,000 while jobs for high school graduates and dropouts will only grow by 51,000.
- Between 2008 and 2018, Kansas will create 482,000 job vacancies both from new jobs and from job openings due to retirement. 301,000 of these job vacancies will be for those with postsecondary credentials, 136,000 for high school graduates, and 45,000 for high school dropouts.
- By 2018, 64% of all jobs in Kansas (1 million jobs) will require some postsecondary training beyond high school.

Other recent studies indicate:

- Increasing the nation's average level of education by one year could increase economic growth by 6-15%, adding between \$600 billion and \$1.5 trillion to U.S. economic output (U.S. Dept. of Labor). The effect would be similar in Kansas.
- In 1955, "skilled" and "professional" jobs comprised 40% of the Kansas workforce. Today, that number is 88% (ACT, Inc.).
- Kansans with higher levels of education have higher labor participation rates and are better prepared to weather economic downturns. In 2008, 65% of Kansans with a high school or less were employed, compared to 89% employment for those with at least an associate's degree (KS Dept. of Labor).

As Secretary of Commerce Pat George recently noted at the Kansas Workforce Summit, 90% of the students who graduate from a Kansas community or technical college stay in Kansas

following graduation and are employed in our state's workforce. As you'll see in the attached enrollment document, 85% of the students enrolled under the provisions of this law attend one of the state's community or technical colleges. Legislators who are interested in growing the state's economy should take this compelling data to heart before voting on House Bill 2006.

In summary, this law is not only an opportunity for individuals and for the state as a whole, but it is also an important economic engine. Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear before your Committee today.

Kansas Board of Regents
Student Headcount Enrolled under Provisions of K.S.A. 76-731a
Fall 2005 - 2010 (Based on fall 20th day enrollments)

Institution		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Public Universities	Emporia State University	4	4	9	3	3	2
	Fort Hays State University	1	6	7	14	18	25
	University of Kansas and KUMC	4	8	11	10	11	14
	Kansas State University	4	4	7	11	10	15
	Pittsburg State University	1	2	2	4	1	1
	Washburn University Total	0	0	0	1	0	1
	Washburn University	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Washburn Institute of Technology	0	0	0	1	0	0
	Wichita State University	21	5 *	10	17	17	4
Public Universities subtotal		35	29	46	60	60	62
Community Colleges	Allen County	0	1	1	1	0	0
	Barton County	3	2	1	7	8	8
	Butler County	14	28	31	47	48	63
	Cloud County	0	0	0	10	1	0
	Coffeyville	4	0	0	0	0	0
	Colby	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Cowley County	2	2	2	1	0	0
	Dodge City	0	0	0	0	0	17
	Fort Scott	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Garden City	5	7	10	16	19	15
	Highland	0	0	2	2	0	0
	Hutchinson	2	2	6	2	5	8
	Independence	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Johnson County	51	40	69	64	78	84
	Kansas City KS	5	16	34	43	51	55
	Labette	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Neosho County	1	2	1	2	0	0
	Pratt	1	1	2	0	1	1
Seward County	94	35 *	36	44	42	68	
Community College subtotal		182	136	195	239	253	323
Technical Institutions	Flint Hills Technical College	3	0	1	1	1	10
	Manhattan Area Technical College	0	0	0	0	0	0
	North Central KS Technical College	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Northwest KS Technical College	0	0	0	1	0	0
	Salina Area Technical College	0	0	1	1	1	4
	Wichita Area Technical College	1	4	0	0	1	14
Technical Institutions subtotal		4	4	2	3	3	28
Grand Total		221	169	243	302	316	413

* - decrease due to changes in institutional reporting procedure

Data source: KBOR report, institutional fall submissions, fall 2005 - 2010