



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE February 14, 2011

Testimony In Support of Senate Bill 143

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Good afternoon Madam Chair and members of the Committee. My name is Blake Flanders and I serve as Vice President of Workforce Development for the Kansas Board of Regents and provide executive support to the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority (Authority). I am here on behalf of the Board of Regents and the Authority to testify in support of Senate Bill 143.

In 2007, the Kansas Legislature enacted legislation which created the Authority, and in 2009 codified proviso language from a previous Omnibus Bill by amending K.S.A. 72-4482 to include the following section directing the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority to “(11) (A) *develop and recommend to the state board of regents a credit hour funding distribution formula for postsecondary technical training programs that (i) is tiered to recognize and support cost differentials in providing high-demand, high-tech training, (ii) takes into consideration target industries critical to the Kansas economy, (iii) is responsive to program growth and (iv) includes other factors and considerations as deemed necessary or advisable; and (B) establish and recommend to the state board of Regents the rates to be used in such funding distribution formula.*”

If enacted, Senate Bill 143 will provide a systematic uniform approach and structure for funding technical education and a framework for a tiered technical education funding approach with rates established by program delivery costs. This systematic change will provide a forward-looking approach resulting in an equitable, coherent funding structure. The new approach to technical education funding also provides long-term system incentives for the production of a high wage Kansas workforce. Additionally, Senate Bill 143 repeals the community college operating grant and establishes a fund for non-tiered course credit hours supporting general education delivered by community colleges. Senate Bill 143 follows the legislative directive relative to the funding approach for postsecondary technical education, and is a culmination of three years of effort from the institutional leaders, the Authority, and Board of Regents.

In summary, we support Senate Bill 143, proposed by the Authority and recommended by the Board of Regents. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your consideration of this legislation. I will be happy to answer any questions.

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