



PROPONENT Testimony on HB 2081
House Education Committee
February 15, 2023
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President, Kansas Independent College Association

Chair Thomas and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony related to House Bill 2081.

Kansas' Independent Colleges:

KICA represents the twenty accredited undergraduate degree-granting private non-profit colleges of Kansas. Among KICA's members are the state's oldest institution – Baker University in Baldwin City, founded in 1858 – and the state's youngest non-proprietary institution – MidAmerica Nazarene University in Olathe, founded in 1966. KICA represents the twenty accredited undergraduate degree-granting private non-profit colleges of Kansas. The KICA institutions are, by statute and by historical precedent, outside the governance, coordination, or regulatory oversight of the Kansas Board of Regents.

Teacher Education at KICA Institutions:

Teacher education has been and continues to be a mainstay of the educational offerings at KICA institutions. In many cases, KICA's colleges were founded initially to train two types of professionals: ministers and teachers. That priority remains today.

- 15 of the 20 KICA members offer undergraduate degrees in teacher education, with nearly 1,400 students enrolled in those programs each year.
- Last year, KICA awarded 329 bachelor's degrees in education. 17% of the new teachers who earn bachelor's degrees in the state come from KICA institutions, even though we only have 12% of the total enrollment.
- Last year, 164 of our teacher education graduates are accept positions at Kansas schools.

KICA graduates are routinely among the finalists for the Kansas Teacher of Year. Brian Skinner (2023 Kansas Teacher of the Year) is a Bethel College alum. Tabatha Rosproy (2020 Kansas Teacher of the Year) is a Southwestern College graduate. They exemplify the type of student we hope to see come through our doors and succeed once they leave us.

Thus, because of our longstanding committed to excellence in teacher education and belief that it is core to our mission to serve students of all ages and abilities, KICA is grateful to strongly support HB 2081 and pleased to see that students at private colleges would be eligible for the support envisioned in this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to come before you. I am happy to answer any questions you may have or provide additional data as you request