



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

HOUSE FEDERAL & STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

March 20, 2013

Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 2192

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Chair Siegfried, Ranking Member Ruiz, and Members of the Committee, I am here on behalf of the Kansas Board of Regents to testify in opposition to House Bill 2192. This bill would repeal K.S.A. 76-731a – the law that allows children of undocumented immigrants who have attended and graduated from Kansas high schools, and others meeting the same qualifications, to pay in-state tuition rates at our state's public postsecondary institutions.

There are many public policy reasons to reject repeal. But maybe no reason for rejecting repeal is more compelling than this: The loss of in-state tuition rates would cause many of these students to abandon higher education. Kansas simply can't afford to lose these students!

**Why does the Board of Regents so strongly support
in-state tuition for undocumented students?**

By the end of this decade, more than 60% of the jobs in this state will require a higher education license, certification or degree. That is why the Board of Regents has aggressive goals to increase the number of Kansans who obtain higher education credentials in the coming years.

We know that those individuals who obtain a degree, certification, or license are much more likely to be employed -- and to remain employed -- in even the toughest economic times.

Our State is starting to see quality job growth. Who will be prepared to fill those jobs? Kansas needs the highly motivated students who are making use of in-state tuition rates under the present law. We must not lose them.

So who are these students?

Well, they are innocent. It's important to begin with that. Many of them find out they are undocumented only when they apply to college.

There are 630 students making use of in-state tuition rates under the present law. I know you won't be surprised when I tell you that many of them come from very modest circumstances.

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More than 500 of them are attending a community or technical college. It's worth noting that studies have shown that more than 90% of students who attend a community or technical college will end up residing in Kansas.

These students have been educated for years in our schools, some of them since they were in elementary school. To qualify for in-state tuition rates they must have (A) attended an accredited Kansas high school for three or more years; B) either graduated from an accredited Kansas high school or earned a GED certificate in this state; and C) if they don't have lawful immigration status, they must file an affidavit stating under oath that they have started the process to obtain legal status.

These students don't get special treatment regarding admission standards – they must meet the same criteria as anyone else going to that college or university. They don't attend our public postsecondary institutions for free. They still pay tuition -- the same tuition, I might add -- that their high school classmates pay.

And here's the amazing thing: Undocumented students are NOT eligible for ANY state or federal student loans, grants or fellowships. They bear the entire burden of the cost of their higher education, no matter how poor they are.

These undocumented students, who are working so hard, in very difficult circumstances, to obtain higher education credentials are great Kansans. They are exactly what our state needs. We – all of us - really need these students to succeed.

The law granting these students in-state tuition rates promotes growth in Kansas

The Legislature is focusing considerable attention on policies that promote growth in our state.

It is important, then, to remember this: The law that gives these undocumented and other students an opportunity to attend a Kansas higher education institution at in-state tuition rates is an important pro-growth policy.

Repeal of that law, to be blunt, would represent anti-growth public policy.

Kansas needs more students – including those who are undocumented and qualify for in-state tuition - to obtain higher education degrees, licenses, or certificates to meet the job requirements of the future.

The present law, then, should be viewed as an opportunity – not just for the undocumented and other students who qualify for in-state tuition – but for the state as a whole.

We urge you to not pass H.B. 2192.

Thank you, Mr. Chair, for the opportunity to appear before your Committee today. I would be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.



**Kansas Board of Regents
Student Headcount Enrolled under Provisions of K.S.A. 76-731a
Fall 2005 - 2012 (Based on fall 20th day enrollments)**

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Public Universities	35	29	46	60	60	79	101	117
Community Colleges	182	136	195	239	253	323	396	498
Technical Colleges	4	4	2	3	3	28	3	15
Grand Total	221	169	243	302	316	430	500	630

* Includes Washburn Institute of Technology
Data source: Annual submissions from Institutions to KBOR.

Name of Institution	In State Tuition (per credit hour)	Out of State Tuition (per credit hour)	International Students (per credit hours)
<i>Examples of Community College Tuition</i>			
Allen County Community College	\$50	\$50	\$137.00
Butler Community College	\$73.50	\$215.50	215.5
Johnson County Community College (in state tuition is for Johnson Co. residents only) (out of state tuition for any student living outside of Johnson County)	\$84	\$99	\$197 (this tuition is for international students and out of Kansas residents)
Kansas City, Kansas, Community College (Tuition for above does not include fees)	\$62	\$174	\$174

Examples of Four-Year Institutions

Tuition and fees per semester for 10 or more credit hours

Emporia State University	\$2,636	\$8,163
Pittsburg State University	\$2,747	\$7,525
Kansas State University (average of 14 credit hours)	\$3,780	\$9,790