



**KANSAS ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOL BOARDS**

Serving Educational Leaders, Inspiring Student Success

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Testimony in opposition before the

House Higher Education Budget Committee

on

HB 2643, modifying postsecondary tuition and fees for aliens to offset moneys used for the Kansas foster children educational assistance act

by

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February 19, 2018

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to [HB 2643](#).

KASB policy supports legislation that would allow students who have attended Kansas high schools for a reasonable period of time and successfully completed a high school program and other requirements for college admission to pay resident tuition rates, regardless of whether these students are citizens of the United States.

Kansas public schools are required to educate all children who present themselves at the schoolhouse door, regardless of their citizenship status. These students are tested in reading and math under the state accreditation requirements and they count toward participation and proficiency benchmarks under Kansas and federal education accountability measures. Undocumented students are also counted in district attendance and drop-out rates.

KASB supports the Kansas State Board of Education's vision for the success of all Kansas students. That vision includes increasing the high school graduation rate and promoting postsecondary success, whether in college or careers. If undocumented students see no reason to stay in school to prepare for jobs or higher education, it will be more difficult to keep them engaged and in school.

Many Kansans are concerned about the impact of illegal immigration on the state and the nation. Denying undocumented students access to in-state tuition rates certainly will not force them to leave the state; rather, this bill would merely tell those students they can pay much higher tuition rates than their high school classmates and friends who walked across the same graduation platform and received the same Kansas diploma.

Kansas needs more, not fewer, workers with the higher-level skills that can be earned through attendance at two-year or four-year state colleges and universities. It makes no economic or moral sense to erect

higher barriers to postsecondary success to the undocumented children who would lose benefits on the enactment of HB 2643.

For these reasons, we stand in opposition to HB 2643.