

Senate Ways and Means Committee
Monday, February 20, 2017
Testimony in support of Senate Bill 174

Senator McGinn and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of Senate Bill 174.

My name is Eric Burks, President of North Central Kansas Technical College located in Beloit and Hays. My remarks today are offered in my capacity as the President of the Kansas Association of Technical Colleges (KATC). We are a seven-college consortium promoting career and technical education in Kansas. We are proud that Wichita Area Technical College (WATC) is one of our seven members.

Our support of Senate Bill 174 is predicated on our long-standing position of support for our member institutions in voluntarily affiliating with other institutions of higher education when they have determined it is in the best interests of their students and their college. Senate Bill 174 is one such instance where both Wichita Area Technical College and Wichita State University have worked diligently and deliberately to advance the affiliation of those two colleges.

The seamless affiliation under Senate Bill 174 preserves the function and mission of WATC in its efforts to provide high demand, business driven technical education to their students. All KATC members are focused on workforce development and supplying business and industry with the employees they need to succeed. In its current form, we see no adverse effects of Senate Bill 174 to our member institutions or the missions in which we individually and collectively are working to fulfill.

Senate Bill 174 demonstrates your responsiveness to the needs of post-secondary education by allowing the voluntary affiliation of two colleges in the best interest of their students and the business and industry community.

On behalf of the KATC members, I encourage this Committee to pass Senate Bill 174 favorably. Thank you for your time to consider our support.

