



February 5, 2019

Dear Chairman Tarwater and Members of the Committee,

Cowley College is please to offer support for HB 2118. Aerospace manufacturing is a critical component of the economy in Cowley College's service area. Our college offers associate of applied science degree programs and career technical education programs identified in this legislation as necessary for employment in the aerospace sector.

Students at Cowley College often graduate with multiple employment opportunities, some of which include offers outside of the south-central region and even the state. For some students, the cost of higher education remains a barrier, and the ability to pay back their education investment is a worry.

HB 2118 provides solutions to address both of these challenges.

First, this bill will incentivise our students to remain in Kansas to pursue their careers, thus, strengthening our local communities and ensuring our Kansas-based companies remain strong. For students who need additional financial resources, the income tax credit is an important offset to any debt they may have incurred during their pursuit of an applied science degree.

We take our jobs seriously as educators of the next generation of the Kansas workforce. Each tool this legislative body provides is appreciated and champions the success of our students on their career pathways. Adoption of HB 2118 will enable more individuals in our service area to pursue workforce training, a victory for all involved.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 2118. We believe its an important component for the retention of Kansas talent and building the workforce needed today.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis C. Rittle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail.

Jessica Lucas  
Cowley College Government Liaison  
[jessica@wks.us](mailto:jessica@wks.us)  
620-931-7161

Dennis C. Rittle, PhD  
Cowley College President  
[dennis.rittle@cowley.edu](mailto:dennis.rittle@cowley.edu)  
620-441-5234