



Kansas Grain and Feed Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
Renew Kansas Biofuels Association
816 SW Tyler, Topeka, Kansas 66612 | 785.220.5211

February 17, 2021

To: House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
From: Randy Stookey, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs and General Counsel
Re: **Joint, Proponent, Written Testimony on House Bill 2287, creating the Kansas promise scholarship program.**

Chairman Tarwater and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2287. This testimony is submitted jointly on behalf of the Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA), Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA), and Renew Kansas Biofuels Association (Renew Kansas).

KGFA is the state association of the grain receiving, storage, processing and shipping industry in Kansas. KGFA's membership includes over 950 Kansas business locations and represents 99% of the commercially licensed grain storage in the state. KARA is an agribusiness industry trade association whose membership includes over 700 companies across Kansas. Renew Kansas is the trade association of the biofuels processing industry in Kansas.

Our associations broadly represent the Kansas agribusiness industry, which provides good paying careers for people in every corner of the state. There is an on-going demand in the agribusiness industry for a trained, skilled, labor force, including the skills and training that are provided by our state's community colleges and technical schools.

Our industries support efforts to promote a ready workforce with the necessary skills and competency. We therefore support vocational and technical training programs which introduce people to various vocational opportunities.

We understand the intent of House Bill 2287 is to provide scholarship opportunities for students attending Kansas community colleges and technical schools through the Kansas promise scholarship. Such scholarships will help provide students the necessary skills and training needed for today's careers, and encourage workforce participation.

House Bill 2287 represents sound public policy for promoting workforce training, and encourages participation in vocational and technical training programs by providing financial assistance for students. For these reasons, we stand in support of the bill.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2287. We respectfully request that the committee pass the bill out favorably.