



March 7, 2012

To: House Committee on Education Budget

From: Kathleen A. Taylor, Kansas Bankers Association *KAT*

Re: HB 2645: Making Financial Literacy a Graduation Requirement

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of **HB 2645**, which would include as a requirement for graduation from a Kansas high school, a course in financial literacy. The Kansas Bankers Association (the KBA) has long been a supporter of financial literacy programs – those that have been offered through the private sector, and those efforts in the past to legislatively address the inclusion of financial literacy in K-12 curriculum.

Most recently, the KBA, along with the State Bank Commissioner and Securities Commissioner, have endorsed a web-based curriculum developed by EverFi, Inc., a Washington, D.C. based education technology company. I have attached to my testimony, a letter from KBA President, Chuck Stones, encouraging banks to partner with their local schools so to promote the availability of a ready-made curriculum to students – with no need for additional training for teachers or administration.

Technology has changed the method of delivery of financial services to customers, much as it has changed every industry. Many banks are providing account services via the iPhone, so yes, there is an “app” for that. With information so readily available, it seems critical to teach kids the do’s and don’ts of saving, investing, understanding debt, money management and financial responsibility in general.

We offer whole-hearted support for the spirit in which this bill was introduced, and hope to be a resource as the curriculum is developed. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.