

February 11, 2019

RE: Proponent Testimony HB 2144 Community College Transparency Act

Dear Chairman Huebert and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2144. This bill will assist all Kansas residents to receive helpful information to enable them to better understand the importance of the contributions made by the owners of the 19 community college colleges and the financial sacrifices made by them in providing necessary educational and skill development opportunities to our entire state.

I am currently serving as a trustee of Dodge City Community College. Since 1989 I have served 19 years on the board of trustees. However, I am not speaking for the board but am giving this this testimony as a resident of Ford County in my individual capacity.

In my study of the history of community colleges, I marvel at the wisdom of the Community College Act of 1965. The Legislature provided a framework for community colleges that contained a thoughtful vision to follow that allowed the colleges to fulfill their promise of providing opportunities for the residents of their counties and which protected the owners of the college through common sense limitations on the use of public funds.

Unfortunately, the various boards of trustees and administrations over the years failed to appreciate those safeguards and began to insist on local control. The laws which were put in place to protect the residents of the 19 community college districts were repealed and policies were enacted by the local boards much to the detriment of the owners of the colleges and to the institutions themselves.

Many community colleges are obsessed with increasing enrollment and some appear to believe that increasing enrollment is the best and perhaps the only measure of a successful college. Such a mindset leads to placing an ever-increasing financial burden upon the taxpayers responsible for funding the college. At Dodge City Community College, we have increased the enrollment of nonresidents of Kansas, of international students and nonresidents of Ford County at the expense of enrolling Ford County residents. This would not be a big

problem if DCCC charged the nonresidents tuition which matched the cost of providing the education and skill training of nonresidents. However, that is not the case, and "increased enrollment" of nonresidents has placed an unreasonable burden on the owners of DCCC by greatly subsidizing the education and technical training of those who do not pay taxes to maintain and operate our college.

Paying increased taxes to subsidize the nonresidents of Ford County is without any appreciable benefit to Ford County residents and subsidizing the education and training of nonresidents of Kansas is without benefit to the state of Kansas.

Ford County residents are largely unaware of the actual financial burden they are bearing to provide education and training to others because there is no law which requires such information to be published. The last information I was able to obtain revealed that the FTE cost at DCCC was approximately \$18,400.

HB 2144 is a giant step forward to ensure that the residents of the community college districts will receive relevant financial information to help them make important decisions regarding the election of those who represent them on the board of trustees. Additionally, such information will assist all other Kansas residents in understanding how generous the taxpayers in the 19 community college districts in providing low cost education and training opportunities for all Kansas residents.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry J. Malone".

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