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## Written, Proponent Testimony before the Senate Committee on Education

on

**HB 2287** - creating the Kansas promise scholarship act and the Kansas promise scholarship program fund.

by

## Leah Fliter, Director of Governmental Relations Kansas Association of School Boards March 23, 2021

Madam Chair, Members of the Committee:

KASB appears as a proponent of **HB 2287** based on positions adopted by our Delegate Assembly.

Under the goal of preparing students to be economically successful, we have identified the pathway: "Prepare students for postsecondary education and careers," with two positions:

**Address students affected by COVID-related disruptions in learning**. Disadvantaged students may have fallen farther behind in college readiness during remote learning and may face additional economic challenges in attending college. School districts, higher education institutions and the state should explore ways to facilitate the transition from secondary to postsecondary education for all students.

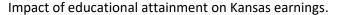
Support school redesign principles and programs to improve college and career readiness. Moving many more students to higher levels of readiness for college and careers is critical to both individual and state economic success and will likely require different approaches to learning. The state should support innovative approaches, such as moving from seat time to mastery of competencies.

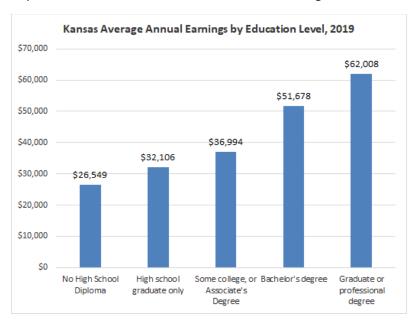
We appear in support of **HB 2287** because it would provide additional assistance to help students afford the cost of postsecondary education, up to a two-year degree. Completion of these credentials not only improves average earnings and employment rates but can lead to further education for many students.

The "promise" of financial aid for postsecondary studies may also help motivate students to complete high school and work to be better prepared for such programs.

On the following page, is some additional information about the impact of improving education attainment.

Thank you for your consideration.





Because Kansas has moved more of its population to higher education levels, total Kansas personal income – the total income of all state residents from all sources – has increased by nearly \$7.3 billion compared to 1990 education levels.

Kansas Education Levels and Earnings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
-	1990 Percent at Education Levels	2019 Population By 1990 Ed Level	2019 Average Kansas Earnings by Education Level	Hypothetical 2018 Earnings at 1990 Education Levels	2019 Percent at Education Levels	Actual Number at Education Level 2018	2018 Earnings at Actual Education Levels
Population 25 years and over		1,911,426	\$41,181			1,911,426	
No High School Diploma	18.7%	357,437	\$26,549	\$9,489,585,939	9.0%	172,033	\$4,567,304,117
High school graduate only (includes equivalency)	32.5%	621,213	\$32,106	\$19,944,679,026	25.4%	485,753	\$15,595,585,818
Some college, or Associate's Degree	27.3%	521,819	\$36,994	\$19,304,183,110	31.7%	607,497	\$22,473,744,018
Bachelor's degree	14.4%	275,245	\$51,678	\$14,224,128,887	21.1%	402,368	\$20,793,573,504
Graduate or professional degree	7.0%	133,800	\$62,008	\$8,296,659,239	12.8%	243,775	\$15,116,000,200
Total Wage Eamings:				\$71,259,235,201			\$78,546,207,657
increase in Earning Due to Higher Education Levels							\$7,286,971,456

## It has also reduced poverty.

Kansas Education Levels and Poverty	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	1990 Percent at Education Levels	2018 Population By 1990 Ed Level	2018 Average Kansas Poverty Rate by Education Level	Hypothetical 2018 Poverty at 1990 Education Levels	2018 Percent at Education Levels	Actual Number at Education Level 2018	2018 Poverty at Actual Education Levels
Population 25 years and over		1,911,426				1,911,426	
No High School Diploma	18.7%	357,437	22.6%	80,781	9.0%	172,028	38,878
High school graduate only (includes equivalency)	32.5%	621,213	12.4%	77,030	25.5%	487,414	60,439
Some college, or Associate's Degree	27.3%	521,819	8.6%	44,876	31.3%	598,276	51,452
Bachelor's degree	21.4%	409,045	3.6%	14,726	33.8%	646,062	23,258
Total In Poverty				217,413			174,028
Decrease in Poverty Due to Higher Education Levels							(43,386)
							-20.0%