



To: House Education Committee

Date: February 8, 2018

Re: Testimony in Support of House Bill 2541 - Amendments to the Kansas National Guard educational assistance Act

Chairman Aurand and members of the House Education Committee thank you for taking the time to review the comments of the Kansas Association of Technical Colleges in support of House Bill 2541. Our membership has long been supportive of Kansans that serve in the National Guard protecting our freedoms both at home and abroad.

These past few decades have been unprecedented in the deployment of our National Guard service men and woman overseas for multiple tours of duty in many instances. These unselfish and brave Kansans deserve all the help we can provide with their education, training and/or/retraining that will aid them in a successful career once their military career is completed.

The provisions of House Bill 2541 appear to strengthen the Kansas National Guard Educational Assistance Act that we previously supported at its inception. The changes will clarify expectations for those availing themselves of the Act while providing those finding themselves unable to fulfill their agreement by reason of extenuating circumstances or extreme hardship a process through which they can request a waiver from recoupment.

Additionally, our review indicates that according to the Division of Budget fiscal note, these changes have no adverse impact to the state budget.

Thank you for your time in considering this measure and we encourage your support.