

Testimony before the K-12 Education Budget Committee

on

HB2410

by

**Travis Riebel, Hutchinson Career and Technical Education Academy Director, USD 308 –
Hutchinson Public Schools**

Today I'm submitting this testimony on behalf of Hutchinson Public Schools

March 23, 2017

Chairman Campbell and Members of the Committee:

I am in opposition of several points of this bill, but specifically oppose the changes impacting the funding of career and technical education (the old “vocational” weighting). As written, the bill will have serious, harmful implications for the students of Hutchinson Public Schools as well as students from neighboring districts who attend our technical education programs.

Hutchinson Career and Technical Education Academy provides twenty two programs represented in fourteen career pathways approved by the Kansas Department of Education for career and technical education funding. These CTE programs offer a variety of career exploration, industry recognized certifications, post-secondary credit, and post-secondary certifications through an integral partnership with Hutchinson Community College. Hutchinson Career and Technical Education Academy serves Hutchinson USD 308 students as well as students from area, partnering school districts as well as post-secondary students. Career and Technical Education programs also play a vital role in USD 308’s mission; *Students will graduate with the knowledge, skills and behaviors to be college and career ready.*

Although, there are many benefits career and technical education courses provide to students, the most important is hope and opportunity. CTE programs give students the confidence, technical skills, and credentials to be successful in careers or further education. At HCTEA, and career and technical programs across the nation, there are countless stories of students that were at-risk of not completing a high school education that are now successful in school and work as a direct result of training received. Teachers at Hutchinson Career and Technical Education Academy train Certified Nurse Aides, Automotive Technicians, Welders, Machinists, Carpenters, Engineers, Architects, Accountants, and many more examples of high skill, high wage opportunities. Furthermore, the strongest drive for my passion in providing quality career and technical education programs are the specific stories of students who have gained hope and opportunity for a successful future and career through CTE.

Operating quality career and technical education programs come at a very large price to unified school district budgets. CTE programs must maintain costly equipment, tools, supplies and consumable materials to provide work-based training in the industries we serve. In the 2015-2016 school year, Hutchinson, USD 308 spent over \$2.6 million in operating expenses of CTE

programs. With over \$1 million of revenue comprising of career and technical education, and SB155 funding, eliminating career and technical education would be devastating to Hutchinson Career and Technical Education programs.

There are several options for improving HB2410 as it relates to career and technical education funding.

1. Continue to use the vocational weighting in the old school finance formula.
2. Move to a tiered system of program funding that accounts for the actual costs of offering various vocational programs, similar to the KBOR funding system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. We stand opposed to HB2410 unless changes are made to address the severe loss of career and technical education funding that will end our ability to provide career and technical education to the students of Hutchinson and other districts in our surrounding area.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Travis Riebel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the first few letters.

Travis Riebel
Director, Hutchinson Career and Technical Education Academy – USD 308