

## MEMORANDUM

**TO: Kansas Senate Ways and Means Committee**

**FROM: Kate Allen, Associate Vice President Institutional Advancement  
Johnson County Community College**

**RE: Senate Bill 235**

**DATE: March 23, 2017**

---

In 1965, the Kansas Legislature established the Kansas State System of Community Junior Colleges: K.S.A. 1965 supp. 72-6901. This legislation enabled the locally created system of community colleges that serve our communities so well today. The fundamental basis for the Kansas community college system was its insistence that locally elected Trustees serve as the overseers of policy and practice for their respective colleges.

Johnson County Community College, through its elected trustees, has consistently supported and advocated for local control inherent in the community college system. Our college operates because of the support of the Johnson County taxpayers who provide 61% of our revenues and our students who provide 22% of our revenues through tuition. Most importantly, Johnson County residents elect our seven Trustees who oversee the College. We believe our Trustees, who serve at the will of the people, are best suited to determine policy affecting the college.

House Bill No. 2353, passed in 2012, provided college campuses with an exemption from changes in Kansas' concealed carry law until July 1, 2017. Since then, our College has worked hard to determine the best ways to provide the safest environment possible within the law. This effort contributed to where we are today:

- We have a fully armed professional police department with 37 employees, including 23 sworn officers who carry weapons and have full arrest powers. The remaining 14 employees are trained civilians who serve in the roles of dispatchers, emergency preparedness, and other support functions. The total annual cost for this Police Department is \$3.3 million.
- Throughout our campus, we have 462 cameras monitoring activity in our parking lots, grounds and hallways.

- We have conducted 117 ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training sessions. This training empowers faculty, staff and students to provide the best response to a violent intruder.
- We commissioned the Docking Institute of Public Affairs at Fort Hays State to survey our Staff and Students regarding their position on allowing guns on campus. (JCCC Faculty commissioned the same organization to survey faculty.) The results are as follows: 81% of faculty and staff wished to eliminate guns on campus or extend the current exemption, 16% indicated a desire to have guns on campus; 65% of Students wished to eliminate guns on campus or extend the current exemption, 35% indicated a desire to have guns on campus.
- We are ever vigilant in our efforts to help ensure the safety of our campus. Our Behavioral Intervention Team and our Keeping Our People Safe (KOPS) program are proactive approaches to provide early alerts regarding safety concerns. We continually reinforce “if you see something, say something.”

In summary, we have not wavered from the position provided in testimony in 2012 by former Trustee Chair Melody Rayl that the issue of whether individuals should be permitted to carry concealed firearms in campus buildings should be decided by the locally elected officials who have been entrusted to make such decisions by the citizens we serve. Therefore, locally governed community colleges such as Johnson County Community College should be listed in Senate Bill 235 under K.S.A. 75-7c20(k) as an entity to which the provisions of K.S.A. 75-7c20 should not apply.

Thank you for your consideration.