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**SENATOR MIKE PETERSEN**  
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JOINT COMMITTEE ON KANSAS SECURITY

## SB 47

Madam Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 47. This bill may sound familiar as I testified about this concept late in 2017. After hearing commissioner Watson's testimony, this bill will give students who graduate before the count date of their senior year, 95% of the base state aid as a scholarship to a college or tech school located in our State and 5% to the school district they would have attended. The Department of Education can keep 2% of the scholarship for administering the fund.

His testimony reminded me one of the metrics used to determine success was how the student was doing after graduation; were they attending college or have they completed a technical certification. Some of these hard-working students from low to middle income may not be able to attend due to financial reasons. According to the latest data available, an average of approximately 340 students graduated this early. Many more students enter their senior year needing just a few credits. These students might choose to take a couple of extra credits or summer school to take advantage of these scholarships. This would save the amount of the weightings possibly making this program cost neutral or even a savings. Keeping these highly motivated students in our State would only benefit our economy with a well-educated work force. Once our counselors, students, and parents learn about this opportunity, I believe many of these students would take advantage of it.

I stand here today and ask you to help with our State's work force development and to consider the creation of student opportunity scholarships to help more of our at-risk students to have the opportunity to obtain a Kansas-based post-secondary education.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Petersen".

Senator Mike Petersen

District 28