

March 17, 2022

RE: Proponent Testimony on HB 2626

Chairman Waymaster and House Appropriations Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you in support of HB 2626. This bill doubles the appropriations to the Kansas Teacher Service Scholarship from approximately \$1.5 M to \$3.M, sunsetting in 5 years. Recipients of this scholarship agree to teach in an accredited Kansas school- ***one year for every year they receive the scholarship***. Data from KBOR shows we are only able to fund half of the eligible recipients annually, hence the call to double the appropriations.

I'd like to walk you through the packets at your desk.

The cover sheet is signed by all 36 bipartisan cosponsors of the bill, as the packet contains the data that moved them to support the bill.

A teacher shortage crisis looms large for our beloved Kansas, as outlined in the news article. A coalition of education organizations are working on a comprehensive strategy to address the issue. Doubling the power of the Kansas Teacher Service Scholarship will quickly double the pipeline of teachers committed to teaching in the Sunflower State.

The next page in your packet is the 2021 KBOR Financial Assistance Report, please open to page 2 and see we only awarded about half of the eligible recipients: 349/728 in 18-19 and 466/832 in 19-20. Let's fix that.

So, what exactly IS the Kansas Teacher Service Scholarship? The next page in your packet goes into detail and I'll give you a quick overview. Recipients who get a credential in a hard to fill discipline such as math or science can teach anywhere in Kansas to meet their service obligation agreement. Teachers obtaining any other credential can meet their obligation by teaching in underserved areas which are Wichita , Topeka, KCK and the entirety of [SBOE Area 5](#), nearly the western 1/3 of the State of Kansas.

- 1) Prioritizes Juniors and Seniors, so this impact can be felt as quickly as one year.
- 2) Complements the Promise Scholarship Act which allows the first two years to be funded and completed at community colleges.
- 3) Full/part time flexibility
- 4) Supports Paraprofessionals become credentialed teachers
- 5) All systems in place, nothing new being created.

The next piece in your packet is a listing of where 466 teachers are currently teaching in the state of Kansas with teachers in YOUR own district highlighted. This bill could double that number.

This body has made wise investments in our shoring up our state's Engineering program. What is the point if we don't have the Math and Science teachers to prepare our K-12 students for engineering careers. This bill supports that initiative.

We have done wonderful rural development work to attracts families and businesses...they will more need teacher and this bill commits them to teaching in Kansas, particularly in SBOE 5.

I urge your support of HB 2626 and will stand for questions.

Mari-Lynn Poskin
KS House 20 Distric 20