



Goodwill Industries of Kansas, Inc.

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Senate Committee on Education
Chris Stanyer, Goodwill Industries of Kansas
Testimony in Favor of SB 438
February 14, 2024

Chairwoman Baumgardner and honorable committee members,

Goodwill Industries of Kansas stands in support of Senate Bill 438 as written, revising the language to clarify the legislation and make required materials available for all Accelerated Opportunity Kansas students, while adding a fiscal cap of \$500 per student over the lifetime of that student.

Goodwill Industries of Kansas is a business-based non-profit 501c(3) organization that provides Adult Education classes that include High School Diploma attainment and sector-based career training that results in industry-recognized credentials for in-demand occupations.

The proposed revisions allow Accelerating Opportunity – Kansas students, rather than only a subset of those students, to receive the required materials needed to complete their job training, and in many cases, use those same tools on their first job after they have received industry-recognized credentials. The proposed revision also limits the amount of funding available to a student over their lifetime, which is reasonable to prevent funding misuse while still allowing students to make full use of the program.

In the last fiscal year, Goodwill Industries of Kansas paid \$11,931 out of pocket for these required student materials. We are fortunate in that we had retail revenue dollars available to cover this additional cost, but the same cannot always be said for the other adult education programs around Kansas. This legislation was the final piece to ensuring adult education students, a workforce of nearly 180,000 persons statewide, have access to training and the required materials for that training.

Goodwill Industries of Kansas stands in favor of these minor language revisions to ensure all AO-K students have access to the materials they need for career-based employment training.

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