



February 20, 2017

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce and our 1,600 members, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of S.B. 174; AN ACT concerning higher education; authorizing the affiliation of Wichita Area Technical College with Wichita State University.

The Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce stands in strong support of allowing this affiliation between Wichita State University and the Wichita Area Technical College because we believe that it will provide tremendous benefit to students and the business community alike.

This affiliation will create a pathway for Wichita State to offer years three and four of bachelor degree programs in several business-related degree programs. We believe this growth in opportunity for the University and students will help with workforce development and will in the long run lead to growth within the south central Kansas economy.

The Wichita area regional business community sees both Wichita State and the Wichita Area Technical College as vital assets. S.B. 174 strengthens both institutions and we urge the Committee report this legislation favorable for passage.

Sincerely,

Gary Plummer
President and CEO