

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1721

A RESOLUTION recognizing 25 years of 529 Education Savings Plans to assist with educating and training our future workforce, and the importance of providing financial empowerment tools to families across Kansas so they may better afford the rising costs of higher education and reduce reliance on student loans.

WHEREAS, Over the past 40 years, the cost of higher education has been consistently increasing at two to three times the rate of inflation each year; and

WHEREAS, Nearly 60% of all federal financial aid is in the form of loans, significantly increasing the number of college graduates faced with the burden of paying enormous student loan debt upon entering the workforce; and

WHEREAS, Concerned by the mounting financial strain placed on young professionals, states began to develop innovative programs designed to help families and students save for their college education; and

WHEREAS, In 1996, the United States Congress, with bipartisan support, developed Section 529 in the Internal Revenue Code and the resulting federal tax benefits, including tax deferred treatment of the earnings when used for higher education; and

WHEREAS, Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code and the subsequent federal tax benefits led to the development of college savings plans nationwide; and

WHEREAS, The Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement (SECURE) Act, signed into law on December 20, 2019, expanded qualified higher education expenses to include repayment of qualified education loans and allowed funds to cover registered apprenticeships; and

WHEREAS, 529 Education Savings Plans allow any U.S. citizen or resident to open an account or be a beneficiary of an account, and there are no age or income limitations; and

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the Kansas State Treasurer to administer the Kansas program, known as Learning Quest 529 Savings Plans; and

WHEREAS, The work of the Office of the Kansas State Treasurer to promote saving for college is providing leadership and innovation to improve educational and economic opportunities for all Kansans; and

WHEREAS, Learning Quest 529 Savings Plans allow Kansans to plan for future education expenses for oneself or one's child or grandchild; and

WHEREAS, To celebrate the longevity and benefits of this program, May 29, 2021, is nationally recognized as National 529 College Savings Plan Day: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we recognize 25 years of 529 Education Savings Plans to assist with educating and training our future workforce, and the importance of providing financial empowerment tools to families across Kansas so they may better afford the rising costs of higher education and reduce reliance on student loans; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate shall send an enrolled copy of this resolution to Senator Sykes.

Senate Resolution No. 1721 was sponsored by Senator Dinah Sykes.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.