



February 18, 2026

Rep. Timmy Truett  
House Primary and Secondary Education Committee  
702 Capital Avenue, Room 424  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Representative Truett,

On behalf of the members of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence, I am writing to express our support for House Bill 562, legislation that strengthens Kentucky’s commitment to equitable, meaningful educational outcomes for students with disabilities. We deeply appreciate your leadership in sponsoring this bill and advancing a policy framework that better aligns diploma options, assessment pathways, and postsecondary transitions for some of our most vulnerable learners.

HB 562 thoughtfully modernizes Kentucky’s diploma system by establishing clear criteria for alternate and modified high school diplomas, ensuring they are aligned with federal expectations under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Every Student Succeeds Act. This clarity is essential for families, educators, and districts working to design individualized programs of study that reflect students’ strengths and needs while safeguarding their right to a free and appropriate public education through the full period of eligibility.

Equally important, the bill recognizes that a diploma is not an endpoint: it is a gateway. By expanding access to Work Ready Scholarships, KEES funding for students in comprehensive transition and postsecondary programs, and structured employer outreach, HB 562 builds a stronger bridge from school to adult life. These provisions open real opportunities for competitive integrated employment, community participation, and credential attainment—outcomes Kentucky has long prioritized and that families deeply value. Your bill affirms what the Prichard Committee believes – that all Kentucky citizens deserve equitable opportunities for upward mobility.

We also applaud the bill’s focus on transparency, cross-agency collaboration, and statewide consistency. The required employer list, the coordination with the Department of Workforce Development, and the alignment of terminology across statutes will all help ensure smoother implementation at the district and state levels.



Thank you for championing legislation that reflects both high expectations and a deep respect for individualized pathways. HB 562 will have a lasting and meaningful impact on students with disabilities, their families, and the educators who support them.

We appreciate your commitment to public education, and we are grateful for your leadership in creating pathways to a larger life for all Kentuckians.

Respectfully,

**Brigitte Blom**

President and CEO

Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence