**Eric Syverson**, Director of Policy & Research
Erics@wearealigned.org
**25RS0630**, Longitudinal Data Act
Kansas House Committee on K-12 Education Budget
Proponent
February 5, 2025

**Chairman Goetz & Members of the House K-12 Education Budget Committee,**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **HB 25RS0630**, which establishes the **Kansas State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS)** under the Kansas Legislative Research Department as the **Division of Longitudinal Data**. This legislation represents a critical step toward modernizing Kansas's approach to education and workforce data by securely connecting data systems across time and state agencies.

As a coalition of business leaders dedicated to improving education and workforce outcomes, Aligned supports data-driven policies that strengthen Kansas's talent pipeline and economic competitiveness. Kansas businesses depend on a skilled workforce, but decision-makers currently lack the data needed to align education pathways with industry needs. The SLDS will empower policymakers, educators, and businesses with actionable insights to improve student outcomes, align education pathways with workforce needs, and drive long-term economic growth.

Business leaders routinely ask, "What does the data tell us?" when thinking about decisions to improve education and workforce outcomes. However, Kansas's current data infrastructure does not allow for the level of analysis that those in the private sector rely on, as it lacks the ability to track data across time and systems.

The SLDS offers several critical benefits:

- **Unified Data System**: The SLDS securely links education, workforce, and state agency data to provide a comprehensive view of student progress and workforce trends over time.
- **Data-Driven Decisions**: With access to longitudinal data, policymakers can evaluate the effectiveness of programs, target investments, and proactively address workforce challenges.
- **Economic Impact**: By aligning education and workforce programs, the SLDS will help retain talent, address skill gaps, and attract businesses to Kansas.
- **Enhanced Privacy and Security**: The bill includes rigorous data deidentification measures to ensure compliance with Kansas and federal privacy laws, fostering public trust.
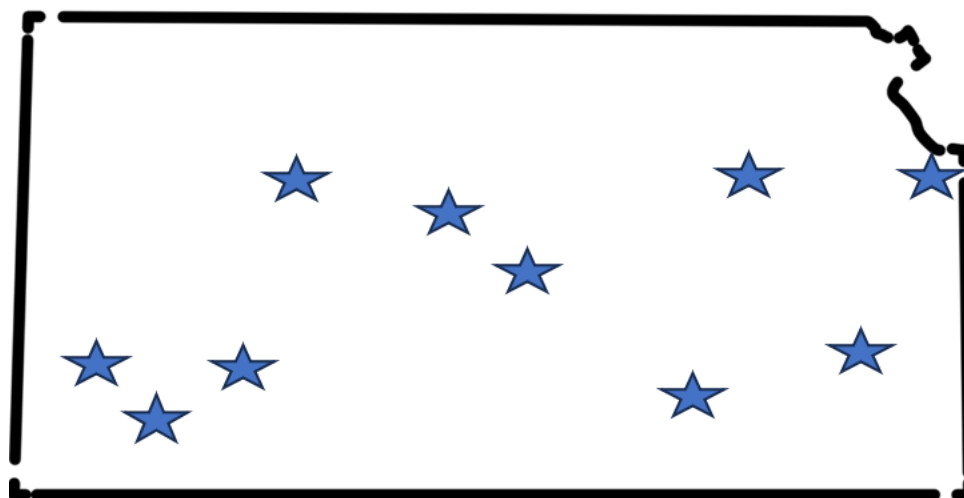
Kansas has the chance to apply the best practices from the **42 other states with SLDSs**, while tailoring the system to meet the state's unique workforce and education needs. The inclusion of a **Kansas Credential and Skills Registry** will provide students and workers with better insights into career opportunities, helping them make informed choices that align with industry demand.

Policymakers will leverage SLDS insights to assess the effectiveness of education programs, allocate resources more strategically, and ensure funding supports high-impact initiatives. Educators can use real labor market data to refine career pathways, better preparing students for in-demand jobs. With strong legislative oversight and secure data management, the system is designed to adapt to Kansas's evolving workforce and education needs.

I appreciate the committee's attention to this important issue and encourage your support for **HB 25RS0630**. I welcome any questions or the opportunity to provide additional information.

Thank you,

Eric Syverson
Director of Policy and Research – KS, Aligned



*Aligned Business Advisory Boards*