



**Chair Goetz and Members of the Committee:**

We appreciate this opportunity to submit written proponent testimony for HB 2303, which establishes a division to manage a data system linking education and workforce data, creates a credential registry, and restricts personal data release. We hold the following position on HB 2303:

1. HB 2303 Protects Privacy and Security First
2. HB 2303 Provides Data-Driven Solutions for Workforce Challenges
3. HB 2303 Provides Long-Term Economic Growth and Talent Retention

**HB 2303 Protects Privacy and Security First**

The SLDS is designed with strict safeguards to protect personally identifiable information and ensure compliance with state and federal privacy laws. Data is *deidentified* and reported transparently to maintain public trust and accountability. HB 2303 allows Kansas to confidently leverage data to inform policy decisions while protecting the privacy of students and workers.

**HB 2303 Provides Data-Driven Solutions for Workforce Challenges**

This system will allow policymakers to align education programs with workforce demands by identifying skills gaps and high-demand career fields. The Kansas Credential and Skills Registry will offer students and job seekers vital information about credential costs, required skills, and career outcomes, helping them make informed choices. HB 2303 gives real-time insights to measure the effectiveness of education programs and adapt policies to meet evolving workforce needs.

**HB 2303 Provides Long-Term Economic Growth and Talent Retention**

Preparing students for high-demand careers will help reduce brain drain and ensure they can thrive in Kansas. Aligning education and workforce data will position Kansas as a hub for skilled talent, attracting investment and expanding job opportunities. HB 2303's ability to provide proactive decision-making based on real-time data will help Kansas remain competitive in a rapidly changing economy.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to pass HB 2303.