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KANSAS NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION / 715 SW 10TH AVENUE / TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1686

**Timothy R. Graham**

Director of Government Relations & Legislative Affairs

Written Testimony – Neutral

House Committee on K-12 Education Budget

HB 2303

February 12, 2025

Chairperson Goetz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral testimony on HB 2303.

Kansas NEA is a member-driven organization representing all 40,000 educators in the state of Kansas, with nearly 22,000 active members. The positions we advocate are proposed, debated, and adopted by several hundred members who are selected by their peers to attend our annual Representative Assembly.

KNEA does not oppose the concept of a Longitudinal Data System or a Longitudinal Data Division. Nor do we oppose the general intent of this bill, particularly as it pertains to the collection and analysis of data aimed at strengthening the public education system.

However, KNEA is deeply concerned that this system and division would be placed under the authority of the Legislative Coordinating Council and housed within the Kansas Legislative Research Department. These types of divisions and systems should be housed within the Kansas Department of Education, where they rightfully belong.

This is yet another example of a debate that should be taking place within the Kansas Board of Education.

Thank you for your time and consideration.