



House Committee on K-12 Education Budget
Proponent Testimony to House Bill 2303
Presented by William Wilk, Senior Director of Government Affairs

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Mister Chair and members of the committee, my name is William Wilk, Senior Director of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber of Commerce. The Kansas Chamber represents small, medium, and large-sized businesses across the state advocating for policies to improve the economic climate in Kansas. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to submit proponent testimony to House Bill 2303, an act establishing a statewide longitudinal data system.

The Kansas Chamber has been working with Aligned over the past year to implement a statewide longitudinal data system. This data system will be used to compile current data showing the future workforce trends in our state. The data can be accessed by public, private, and non-profit sector organizations to show current workforce trends. The data will also be available for parents and our educators to better prepare our future workforce by showing the future job trends. The legislature will also have access to this data providing lawmakers with more accurate information when it comes to the future policy decisions of our state.

Data is the future of our world. As the innovation of technology continues to advance it is important we use our resources to have access to as much correct data as possible. Currently, 33 states have a fully operational statewide longitudinal data system. There are 9 states that are in the construction phase of getting their data system functional. This means by the next legislative session 42 states will have a functioning statewide longitudinal data system, Kansas being one of the 8 states that would not.

Access to workers continue to be a top concern of the business community. Ensuring that Kansas remains economically competitive to current and future employers in our state requires data-driven strategies to align educational training and job opportunities. Businesses will be able to use this data system to identify skill gaps, refining their hiring strategies, and collaborating with the education system to provide those necessary changes for the future of the workforce.

For more information on Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems watch this video [here](#).

In closing, the Kansas Chamber believes this implementation of a statewide longitudinal data system can lead to education and workforce success in Kansas. Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 2303, and I am happy to answer any questions at the appropriate time.