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**Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 246 (Written-Only Testimony)**

Background Checks for School Employees

Senate Judiciary Committee

January 20, 2026

**Senator Warren and Members of the committee,**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 246.

Aligned is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, business-led education policy organization operating in both Kansas and Missouri. As the business voice for education, our work is centered on one core principle: putting students first by strengthening the systems that surround them. We focus on accountability and transparency because strong systems lead to better outcomes for students, families, and communities.

At its core, SB 246 is about student safety and trust. The bill strengthens and standardizes criminal background check requirements for school employees who have direct contact with students, establishes a consistent five-year recheck cycle, and clarifies reporting and reimbursement processes. These are not new expectations in concept, but this bill ensures they are applied clearly and consistently across districts and roles statewide.

From a student-first perspective, ensuring that the adults working most closely with students are appropriately vetted is foundational. Safe learning environments are a prerequisite for student success, and families deserve confidence in the systems designed to protect their children. SB 246 reinforces that expectation while providing clear guidance to districts and employees alike.

This bill also connects to broader conversations around teacher quality. Clear and consistent expectations help build trust with families and communities and reduce confusion across districts. SB 246 is not about questioning educators or adding unnecessary hurdles. It is about setting straightforward, statewide standards that support professionalism and accountability.

**Aligned supports policies that balance student protection with practical implementation,** and SB 246 strikes that balance. By clarifying expectations and processes, the bill helps districts focus on what matters most: supporting students and educators in safe, effective learning environments.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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