

Written Testimony as a **Proponent**
for
HB 2287 - Establishing the Kansas promise scholarship act to provide scholarships to students who attend postsecondary educational programs that correspond to high-need career fields.

before the Senate Committee on Education
by
Torree Pederson, President/CEO, Aligned
March 23, 2021

Chairwoman Baumgardner, Members of the Committee:

Aligned is a not-for-profit organization comprised of business leaders committed to improving Missouri's education system through advocacy, outreach, and investment. Our mission is to amplify the business voice to improve student outcomes and workforce readiness in Kansas. We envision a state where all students receive an education that has prepared them to seek the future of their choice.

*We submit this testimony in support of **HB 2287**.*

Our organization values investments in programs that offer financial assistance for post-secondary training. These opportunities will encourage more students to pursue careers in high-need fields, which benefits both individuals and employers.

Helping students access an on-ramp to post-secondary education will deliver a return-on-investment to taxpayers. We believe that the economic health of our businesses depends on a qualified workforce.

Studies suggest that completion of post-secondary credentials will improve the average earnings and lead to greater self-sufficiency for Kansas students.

I would be happy to respond to any questions and assist the committee in research this issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Torree Pederson
President/CEO Aligned

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