ALIGNED
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Written-Only Testimony as a **Proponent**
for
HB 2525 - Removing non-cooperation with child support from requirements for food and child care assistance eligibility and exempting adults enrolled in school from the 20-hour-per-week work requirement for child care assistance eligibility for a limited time.

before the House **Committee on Children and Seniors**
by
Torree Pederson, President/CEO, Aligned
January 31, 2022

Chairwoman Concannon and Members of the Committee:

Aligned is a proponent for **HB 2525**. As a coalition of business leaders committed to improving Kansas's education system, Aligned was founded on the premise that the business community has the obligation, opportunity, and capacity to increase the college and workforce readiness for all students. Aligned is focused on creating alignment between business and education, removing the systemic barriers keeping them apart and encouraging regular and on-going collaboration between the two. Every. Student. Prepared. is our vision for Kansas.

We submit testimony in support of **HB 2525** because Aligned business leader members understand the importance of a skilled workforce and we are committed to improving programs that support Kansans who wish to work and/or further their education. **HB 2525** will allow more Kansans to send their children to quality child care while they enter the workforce or further their education.

HB2525 supports both short-term workforce needs and long-term workforce development in the region. With HB 2525, we can ensure that every Kansan has the opportunity to participate in the workforce knowing their children are safe and learning. Ninety percent of a child's brain develops in the first five years. Access to quality care is imperative if we are to capitalize on their full potential as adults.

I would be happy to respond to any questions and assist the committee in continuing to study this issue. Thank you.

Torree Pederson
President/CEO Aligned

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