

Written Testimony as a **Proponent**
for
HB 2351 - Providing liability protection for businesses, municipalities and educational institutions that participate in high school work-based learning programs and providing that schools are responsible for injuries to students participating in such programs.

before the House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
by

Torree Pederson, President/CEO, Aligned

February 22, 2021

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

Aligned is a proponent for **HB 2351**. 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 2351**. Aligned business leader members understand the importance of a creative and skilled workforce and we are committed to supporting proven, effective strategies for building that pool of talent across the state. Real world, work-based learning opportunities are critical to addressing opportunity and workforce needs gaps in our state.

HB2351 supports both workforce and economic development in the region. With HB 2351, we can promote a strategic alignment for economic and workforce development by supporting local efforts to promote work-based learning programs to all Kansas students.

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

Torree Pederson
President/CEO Aligned

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