

**Clelia McCrory, Career Ed Specialist at ESSDACK Proponent in Person HB2631**

Date: 3/8/2022

**Subject: Proponent & Supporter for HB2631 with the Short Title** "Career technical education credential and transition incentive for employment success act; providing state aid to school districts for students obtaining a credential; establishing the career technical education credential and transition incentive fund." [http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2021\\_22/measure/hb2631/](http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2021_22/measure/hb2631/)

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Short Statement: I became one of the first certified nurse aides in Kansas during my college years. Working as a certified nurse aide allowed me to work nights and weekends while going to college to get my teaching certification/license and allowed me to graduate with only \$800 of student loans in 1979! Having my certified nurse aide certification also gave me a better paying summer job as I began my teaching career. Later, my certified nurse aide certification along with my special education teaching license provided the opportunity for me helping multiple special education students also acquire their certified nurse aide certification. Then, I briefly job coached them to transition into their first paid certified nurse aide jobs. My former special education C.N.A. students have now been successfully employed many years with one of them later also acquiring her rehabilitation aide certification. This funding bill will encourage school districts to help more students acquire industry-meaningful certifications on a widespread basis while students still have their K-12 learning supports.

If we help students acquire industry-meaningful certifications that are aligned to their individualized plans of study or help them acquire more postsecondary training in their desired career field while accumulating MINIMAL postsecondary school DEBT by using their acquired industry certification made possible by HB 2631, we will have financially healthier Kansans for the future!

Industry Certifications document a student's attained skill proficiency for a particular set of technical skills. In addition, many of these nationally recognized industry certifications also have student training support preparation materials available so that school districts that struggle to get teachers with specialized technical skills such as computer programming could still provide training access to their students. We can help students achieve technical skills aligned to what our state's employers need instead of just what teacher expertise we can find. Available teachers can help the student make progress without having to always be the content expert! Schools need to become "industry skill incubators" using the industry-utilized tools so that communities have the workforce that they need. Industry tools like Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint are used by 83% of Enterprise Size Companies (Microsoft and Certiport citations). QuickBooks Software is free to all high schools. Currently, nearly 90% of the Small Businesses in the United States use QuickBooks as their accounting software of choice.

School districts are well-positioned to know the labor needs of their nearby communities and be aware of what local employers are looking for more technically skilled workers. This bill would function on a reimbursement basis so ALL state HB2631 funds spent would be used to actually benefit students acquiring industry certifications! This bill would also encourage all students to achieve a diploma plus entry level technical skill or skills so all students would have a backup plan! Kansas' 41 Highest Demand Jobs chart with jobs paying a livability wage (at least \$28,000/year) also having listed and aligned entry level industry meaningful certification(s) should help school districts get started encouraging students to acquire entry level certifications through HB 2631. Then, Kansas WILL be preparing more students for THEIR FUTURES!

Thanks!