

Written-Only Testimony as a **Proponent**
for

HB 2596 - Authorizing the board of education of a school district to contract with transportation network companies to provide certain transportation services.

before the House **Committee on Transportation**

by

Torree Pederson, President/CEO, Aligned

February 9, 2022

Chairman Proehl and Members of the Committee:

Aligned is a proponent for **HB 2596**. 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 2596** because Aligned business leader members understand the importance of efficiency within the education system. Schools and families across Kansas are experiencing the impact of the school bus driver shortage. Alternative, safe methods of transportation should be available to ensure that all students have access to transportation to/from school and school related activities.

HB 2596 highlights the need for the extensive safety requirements for transportation network company (TNC) services and ensures they are applicable to all vehicles contracted by the local school boards to transport students, including personal sedans, SUVs and minivans.

As the **business community continues to create real world learning opportunities** for Kansas students, access to alternative transportation will help to create equity and opportunity for all students with more efficient use of transportation funds.

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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