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IN-PERSON TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 2731

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Ann Mah & Dr. Deena Horst)

Chairman Thomas and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing us to present testimony today in opposition to HB 2731. HB 2731 proposes to put into statute a requirement for the Kansas State Board of Education (KSBE) to provide a report every January correlating data between students taking the state assessments and their postsecondary education. Last week the Chair noted that sometimes we need to just start a conversation. We agree and hope this bill will start a conversation about what kinds of reports from the KSBE need to be in statute and which do not.

The KSBE does not oppose producing the report described in the bill. We have, in fact, produced similar reports already. All anyone on the Committee needs to do is come talk to us and if we can produce a report you want, we will do our best to get it for you.

What we object to is putting specific legislative report requests into statute. Our staff produces interesting and new reports every year. Next year we are likely to have reports similar to the one in the bill but even more sophisticated and helpful to you and to our districts. Then what happens to this report? What happens is that long after the requestor has left the Legislature and long after this report has become obsolete, our staff will be dutifully producing it for reasons no one can remember. They will be producing it into perpetuity because cleaning up the statutes rarely occurs. Further, there is no evidence that this particular report will be helpful in the yearly general education policy decision-making of both legislative bodies.

We respectfully request that the Committee reject HB 2731 and continue the conversation.