

Testimony of **Betty Jo Shrack, LMSW** to the
House Committee on Education
Proponent for HB 2631 • 6 March 2022
In Writing

Dear Chairman Huebert and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 2631 also known as the "enacting the career technical education credential and transition incentive for employment success act to provide additional state aid for school districts based on students obtaining a credential" act. This piece of legislation will help provide funding to help both high school and adult learners returning to school to earn high school diplomas the option of earning certifications that would help them on their path to employment once they have earned their diploma.

As a Kansas social worker, I have worked with youth and young adults; many of whom are exploring and setting education and employment goals for the first time or returning to goal setting after a break from education or employment endeavors. It is scary and sometimes difficult. For a variety of different reasons, many believe that a four-year degree or other formal education programs are unattainable or not practical for their situation. However, I believe that, if available, many would take advantage of the opportunity to earn employment-based certifications. Certifications that would give these learners 'leg-up' as they enter the workforce and begin their journey to seeking a trade or career.

Providing funding to help aide students in obtaining employment-based certifications will be invaluable for students enrolled in high school programs throughout the state. When students who are not college bound earn certifications, it opens up a world of possibilities to them that would otherwise be closed. I encourage the committee to support and pass House Bill 2631.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betty Jo Shrack, LMSW". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Betty Jo Shrack, LMSW