



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Alaska Commission  
on Postsecondary Education**

3030 Vintage Blvd.  
P.O. Box 110505  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0505  
Executive Office: 907.465.6740  
Toll Free: 800.441.2962  
TDD: 907.465.3143  
Fax: 907.465.3293

April 5, 2018

The Honorable Neal Foster  
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee  
State House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 410  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

The Honorable Paul Seaton  
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee  
State House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 505  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representatives Foster and Seaton:

I am writing to follow-up on questions posed by committee members at the April 2<sup>nd</sup> committee meeting in relation to House Bill 221, workforce and education related statistics program. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify and discuss the impact this bill would have on the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education.

We are working with partner data providers to quantify the approximate cost of conducting research an analysis using the Outcomes Data System. One way we are estimating the cost is by producing a proof-of-concept report on migration patterns of Alaska high school graduates. Based on the effort related to preparing for a research project or new report, which includes establishing a memorandum of understanding, preparing data and sharing it with partner agencies, and creating a data set for analysis, it is estimated there will be savings of approximately 20-25 percent per research project or report from using the Outcomes Data System, depending on the complexity of the request.

We contacted the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD) specific to the information labor unions collect and whether they use the same information the Outcomes Data System collects. DOLWD reports they gather information for apprenticeship programs and report on the number of people who register and complete apprenticeship programs, how much they earn, and similar information. However, DOLWD does not have information related to the specific types of data collected by unions.

The Outcomes Data System does not have an opt-out option. The Outcomes Data System includes only de-identified data to protect individual personally identifiable information. Identified individual data is not needed to produce outcomes reporting on cohorts of students.

The Honorable Neal Foster  
The Honorable Paul Seaton  
April 5, 2018  
Page 2

I hope this information is helpful and responsive to the committee's request. Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Butler', written in a cursive style.

Stephanie Butler  
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Harriet Drummond, District 18, State House of Representatives