



Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

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March 2, 2018

The Honorable Harriet Drummond
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 108
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Drummond,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a letter of support for House Bill 221.

The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) strongly supports the goals and objectives of House Bill 221. The main objective of the bill is to permit the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD) to share unit-record wage and employment data with the Alaska Education and Workforce Outcomes Data System (Outcomes Database) to effectively and efficiently evaluate program outcomes, which current state statute prohibits them from doing. Allowing DOLWD to share this information would provide a more comprehensive picture of the workforce outcomes of our public education system.

The Outcomes Database is a shared resource of ACPE, the Department of Education and Early Development, DOLWD, and the University of Alaska (UA). It is used to securely share data to evaluate long-term outcomes of programs managed by one of these four organizations.

Alaska annually invests more than \$2 billion dollars in Alaska's K-12, postsecondary, and technical/workforce training. Neither the executive nor legislative branches of government have an efficient, cost-effective means of assessing the value received from these public investments. The Outcomes Database can provide policymakers and Alaska citizens with information about which programs are effective, and deliver data to improve education and workforce outcomes at reduced costs. The Outcomes Database operates within a secure, streamlined methodology to analyze education and workforce outcomes using existing data collections. All personally identifiable information is removed before being placed in the Outcomes Database.

The Outcomes Database is a resource and tool that may be used for policymakers to ensure the state's limited resources are directed in ways that provide maximum benefits to students, and can provide policymakers with a cost-effective way to measure education program and workforce outcomes and make informed decisions on resource allocations.

The Honorable Harriet Drummond

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Again, thank you for opportunity to provide a letter of support for House Bill 221 and to showcase the value of the Outcomes Database.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S Butler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "S" being large and stylized.

Stephanie Butler
Executive Director