

HB

221

<TARGET><BILL>HB 221</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
221</SUBJECT><COMM>HEDC30</COMM></TARGET>

ACPE Testimony on HB221

Thank you, Madam Chair, Mr. Ascott.

For the record, this is Stephanie Butler, Executive Director at ACPE. With me is Kerry Thomas, Operations Director at ACPE.

A little background information: Our mission at ACPE is to provide Alaska's citizens with tools and resources to gain access to and experience success in higher education, both college and career training. Some of the ways we meet that mission are by managing the Alaska Performance Scholarship and Alaska Education Grant programs (APS and AEG), offering low-cost student loans, and providing a number of planning programs, among other activities.

But are these the most effective ways to increase access and success? In this time of severely constrained resources, are we using those increasingly limited resources in ways that produce the best return for our students and for the Alaska public to whom we are responsible?

What is the return on investment in programs like the APS and the AEG? Or how about that old favorite, loan forgiveness?

The things that we can currently easily measure, like the number of program participants or even the numbers of program completers, cannot answer that return on the public investment question. To answer that ROI question, we need to know the long-term outcomes across different public sectors, such as

- Alaska spends approximately \$5 million annually on the Alaska Education Grant program. Do recipients graduate at higher rates than non-recipients? Does it help recipients enter the workforce sooner than similarly situated non-recipients? Do they earn more?
- Or back to forgivable loans? If we had a cross-sector outcomes database back then, we could know: Did students who took forgivable loans complete their degrees and return to Alaska at rates higher than other students? And did they work in Alaska?

In other words, are we spending public money in smart ways that make the most difference for students, and for the Alaska economy? The University and DEED indicate they want to answer similar questions about their programs.

The challenge to answering questions like this is not that we don't have the data: we do have it. The challenge is that the data is currently housed in separate transactional databases. Each time we have a question like this, about long-term outcomes, we have to put together a data-sharing MOU, extract the relevant data from our various systems, match it and link it up, and then get the answers to our questions. And in accordance with federal law, once we have those answers to our questions, we have to destroy the linked data to protect individual privacy, which means if we have a follow-up question, we have to start this process again.

HB221 streamlines this process by allowing the Dept of Labor to share unit-level employment and wage records with the Outcomes database, which is currently housed at ACPE. This database houses linked information from ACPE, from UA, from DEED, and from Labor, but right now only training and GED data from Labor. With HB221, it would also house the employment and wage record data. Once data is linked, personally identifiable information (PII) is stripped off, and that PII is never stored with the linked data.

What this Outcomes database offers us is a faster, more cost-efficient way to do longitudinal outcomes assessments, and a key part of doing this is minimizing the proliferation of personally identifiable data. Also, it allows us to retain the de-identified linked data so we can respond to follow-up questions or efficiently perform future analyses.

As previously noted, Alaska currently spends more than \$2 billion dollars annually on our K-12, postsecondary, and technical/workforce training, but we don't currently have a database that can fully provide efficient, cost-effective and secure feedback to the Legislature and the administration on the value received from these public investments.

HB221 enhances Alaska's ability to provide that feedback in several ways:

- It allows the Department of Labor to provide unit-level employment and wage data to the Outcomes database for longitudinal analysis, something 28 other states already do,
- It prohibits sharing of any unit-level data from the Outcomes database with the federal government,
- It codifies in law that data in the database must be de-identified and sets out what that means, and

- It clarifies ACPE's authority to maintain longitudinal data of this nature.

HB221 does not commit any funding for these purposes; it simply allows for the inclusion of this important additional data in the Outcomes longitudinal database, which was created a few years ago under a federal grant.

Specific to funding, it is our intent to seek resources, potentially through another federal grant, to provide outcomes reports once this additional data is available in the Outcomes database. In this time of such severely constrained resources, we believe there is significant opportunity to attract grant dollars to this project, recognizing that tough budget times make it even more important than ever that policy-makers be able to access the cross-sector data needed to look at what happens to students in our education and workforce pipeline and to what extent they enter or advance in the Alaska workforce and contribute to the Alaska economy over the long-term.

I don't want to give you the wrong impression that we will be able to produce lots of reports and outcomes analyses immediately upon passage of HB221 since we will require funding to use the data and do those analyses; however, HB221 does get us a step closer – a very important step closer, and a step without additional cost – to being able to provide you with those kinds of outcomes analyses.

I would note that a good example of the kinds of outcomes analyses we would be able to produce more efficiently is the annual APS outcomes report. This report was required in law when the APS was created and it's time-consuming and quite costly to prepare, but it's part of our budget each year.

The long-term goal is to have the ability to quickly and easily – and inexpensively – produce reports like the APS outcomes report to look at the outcomes of other programs, K-12 programs as well as collegiate and career training programs, and provide you with the information to know not just how much the program costs, but what the return is on that cost investment. Included in the information Mr. Ascott provided is a list of links to reports from other states, to give you some examples of the types of outcomes that can be created with linked cross-sector information.

Thank you for this opportunity to present this information. I hope it has been useful to you, and Ms. Thomas and I would be happy to respond to any questions.

Ascott Testimony on HB221

Hello and good morning Madam Chair, members of the House Education Committee.

For the record, my name is George Ascott, staff to Representative Harriet Drummond, and with me is Stephanie Butler, Executive Director for the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education.

We are here to present HB 221, Workforce & Ed Related Statistics Program.

House Bill 221 will help Alaska prepare to best allocate and utilize increasingly scarce resources available for education and workforce training by clarifying the authority of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) to receive and analyze existing data from state entities through a statewide workforce and education related statistics program. This system, currently known as the Outcomes Database, will be known as the Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS).

I will first provide an explanation of what actual changes will occur to state law under HB 221, and Stephanie Butler will follow up with an explanation of how these changes can ultimately help policy makers allocate increasingly scarce resources to make the most difference for students and the economy.

Under Section 1 of the bill: (This section is mostly existing statute)

- Currently the Commission is allowed to adopt regulations to administer: financial aid programs, institutional authorization functions, and interstate compacts, including the collection and confidentiality of data.
- HB 221 creates additional authority for the Commission to adopt regulations. These are:
- Regulations relating to the collection and analysis of K-12 data, as approved by the Department of Education and Early Development, under its current authority to collect that information,
- **AND regulations for a new purpose:** Administering a statewide workforce and education related statistics program

Moving on to section 2: (All new statutory language)

Currently the law allows the Commission to collect data and share it with the governor, the legislature and other state and federal agencies, but they don't have clear authority to maintain and analyze the data.

Section 2 of HB 221 changes the law so that:

- (b) The commission can maintain a database for the purposes of administering a statewide workforce and education related statistics program and enter into cooperative agreements regarding education and employment, with other agencies
- (c) Section 2 of HB 221 requires the Commission to remove personally identifiable information before it is entered into the database, and it may not provide personally identifiable information to the Federal Government
- (d) This section also clarifies that a "unit record" is information pertaining to an individual

Moving on to section 3: (All new statutory language)

Currently the Department of Labor & Workforce Development is not allowed to share data regarding unemployment insurance with other agencies.

Section 3 changes the law to permit the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to share such data for the purposes of the statewide workforce and education related statistics program, as permitted in federal regulation, and contingent upon a written agreement with ACPE

Section 4:

Just clarifies that the department of Labor and workforce development can share data obtained before the effective date of HB 221

Section 5:

Is just an immediate effective date.

With that, I will turn the microphone over to Stephanie Butler, who will be joined by Kerry Thomas, Operations Director at ACPE. THANK YOU, Madame chair, members of the committee.

(George gives his seat up to Kerry Thomas)



Representative Harriet Drummond

Sponsor Statement
House Bill 221
"Workforce & Ed Related Statistics Program"

House Bill 221 will help Alaska prepare to best allocate and utilize increasingly scarce resources available for education and workforce training by clarifying the authority of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) to receive and analyze existing data from state entities through a statewide workforce and education related statistics program. This system, currently known as the Outcomes Database, will be known as the Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS).

This bill also adds a new subsection to the statute governing information obtained by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, specifically allowing them to share information on mandatory wage data reporting with ACPE.

House Bill 221 requires that the records be kept securely, de-identified, and that no personally identifiable information be shared with the federal government.

The ability for the Legislature to look at workforce and education data completely and over the long term is essential to identifying which education and training programs are, and are not, doing the job of preparing Alaskans for the workforce.

Alaska has many career opportunities for those seeking both vocational and university education. House Bill 221 will help give students the opportunity to identify fields lacking qualified employees so they can train for the best jobs, and it will help employers identify programs producing Alaska residents who are best prepared to fill positions that might otherwise go to out of state applicants.

Prudent budgeting is essential to surviving times of financial hardship, and by ensuring policy-makers can analyze the impact of education programs on the Alaska workforce, House Bill 221 will provide the opportunity for the Legislature to receive data needed to best allocate educational and training resources where they will do the most good over the long term. This bill will incur no additional costs to the state. It is the smart thing to do as we work adapt to Alaska's fiscal challenges.



Representative Harriet Drummond House Bill 221 Sectional Analysis

"Workforce & Ed Related Statistics Program"

Section 1: Amends AS 14.42.030(e) and identifies ACPE as the administering agency of the statewide early education to workforce longitudinal data system.

Section 2: Amends AS 14.42.035 to add new subsections, (b) and (c), to allow ACPE to maintain an education and workforce outcomes database for the purpose of analyzing education and training outcomes. It also clarifies ACPE's authority to partner with state agencies and the University of Alaska to link existing education and workforce-related data to analyze how Alaska's education and training programs are aligned with workforce needs. ACPE is specifically charged with removing personally identifiable information before putting such information in the database. This section also specifies that personally identifiable data may not be provided to the federal government.

Section 3: Amends AS 23.20.110 to add a new subsection, (s), to permit the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to share unemployment insurance data for the specific purposes of the statewide workforce and education related statistics program as permitted in federal regulation, contingent upon a written agreement with ACPE. Under current statute, unemployment insurance information is confidential and may not be shared with another state agency for this purpose. This bill would add a subsection to existing AS 23.20.110 to permit the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to disclose information for purposes of the statistics program, which is designed to produce outcomes information to assess, evaluate, and improve the state's education and career development system.

Section 4: Permits the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to disclose data to ACPE regardless of when it was obtained.

Section 5: The provisions in this bill are effective immediately. There is no fiscal impact to the department under this proposed bill because the existing database can already accept unit-level data, thus no additional modifications are needed in order to include or report this data.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2018 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 221
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB221-DOLWD-UI-02-02-18
Title: WORKFORCE & ED RELATED STATISTICS PROGRAM
Sponsor: DRUMMOND
Requester: (H) Education

Department: Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Appropriation: Employment and Training Services
Allocation: Unemployment Insurance
OMB Component Number: 2276

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2019	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY2019 Request	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2019	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2018) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2019) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? **No**
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared By: <u>Ed Flanagan, Director</u>	Phone: (907)465-5543
Division: <u>Employment and Training Services</u>	Date: 02/02/2018 05:00 PM
Approved By: <u>Greg Cashen, Acting Commissioner</u>	Date: 02/02/18
Agency: <u>Department of Labor and Workforce Development</u>	

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 221

Analysis

This legislation would allow the department to disclose data employers submit for mandatory unemployment insurance (UI) reporting to the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education in support of a statewide workforce and education-related statistics program. However, 20 CFR 603 prohibits the use of the UI Administrative Grant to pay for costs associated with disclosures. Therefore, the requestor must pay for all costs associated with the disclosure of permissible records.

The department is unable to estimate costs associated with these disclosures without knowing the number and frequency of requests. No change to the budget is anticipated at this time.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2018 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 221
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB221-EED-ACPE-2-2-18
Title: WORKFORCE & ED RELATED STATISTICS PROGRAM
Sponsor: DRUMMOND
Requester: (H) EDC

Department: Department of Education and Early Development
Appropriation: Alaska Postsecondary Education Commission
Allocation: Program Administration & Operations
OMB Component Number: 2738

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2019	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY2019 Request	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2019	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2018) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2019) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared By: <u>Stephanie Butler, Executive Director</u>	Phone: <u>(907)465-6740</u>
Division: <u>Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education</u>	Date: <u>02/02/2018 02:00 PM</u>
Approved By: <u>Stephanie Butler, Executive Director</u>	Date: <u>02/02/18</u>
Agency: <u>Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education</u>	

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB221

Analysis

Pursuant to Administrative Order 261, issued in December 2011, the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE), the Department of Education and Early Development, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD), and the University of Alaska partnered in support of a grant application to the United States Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), to fund development of a P20-W statewide longitudinal data system (SLDS).

In 2012, a three-year NCES grant was awarded to Alaska to fund planning, development, and implementation of an Alaska SLDS for the purpose of providing the state with a resource with which to evaluate and improve education program outcomes. This evaluation is based on linking existing early and secondary education data with existing postsecondary education and workforce data to determine the impacts of education and workforce training programs on Alaskans and the state's economy.

This bill clarifies ACPE's role in administering the SLDS on behalf of the founding partner agencies; and permits DOLWD to share unemployment insurance data for the specific purposes of the SLDS, as permitted in federal regulation. Under current statute, unemployment insurance information is confidential and may not be shared with another state agency for this purpose.

Section 1: Amends AS 14.42.030(e) and identifies ACPE as the administering agency of the statewide early education to workforce longitudinal data system.

Section 2: Amends AS 14.42.035 to add new subsections, (b) and (c), to allow ACPE to maintain an education and workforce outcomes database for the purpose of analyzing education and training outcomes. It also clarifies ACPE's authority to partner with state agencies and the University of Alaska to link existing education and workforce-related data to analyze how Alaska's education and training programs are aligned with workforce needs. ACPE is specifically charged with removing personally identifiable information before putting such information in the database. This section also specifies that individuals' unit record data may not be provided to the federal government.


Section 3: Amends AS 23.20.110 to add a new subsection, (s), to permit the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to share unemployment insurance data for the specific purposes of the statewide workforce and education-related statistics program as permitted in federal regulation, contingent upon a written agreement with ACPE. Under current statute, unemployment insurance information is confidential and may not be shared with another state agency for this purpose. This bill would add a subsection to existing AS 23.20.110 to permit the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to disclose information for purposes of the statistics program, which is designed to produce outcomes information to assess, evaluate, and improve the state's education and career development system.

Section 4: Permits the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to disclose data to ACPE regardless of when it was obtained.

Section 5: The provisions in this bill are effective immediately.

There is no fiscal impact to the department under this proposed bill because the existing database can already accept unit-level data, thus no additional modifications are needed in order to include or report this data.

SNAPSHOT: STATEWIDE LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEMS




ALL 50 STATES

and Washington D.C. have the ability to

connect

data between systems.



47 STATES

and D.C. received federal SLDS grants



37 STATES + D.C.

connect data between at least 2 of the 4 core agencies

16 STATES + D.C. have a full P20W system




14

states plus D.C. created their system through statute or legislation



18

states created their system through a federal grant



3 STATES
states created their system through MOUs



2

states created their system by executive order





Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

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Alaska Education and Workforce Outcomes Data System (Outcomes Database) How Other States Use Unit-Level Labor Data

- As of 2016, 28 states are sharing their state's labor/workforce data with their Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS); this is an increase of 8 states over the last 2 years.
- As of 2014, 26 states have initiated skills gap analyses to assess alignments between education and workforce programs and labor market demands
- Linking key workforce and education data will allow Alaska to:
 - Encourage students, parents, and teachers to consider education as relating to high-skill, high-growth jobs of the future
 - Provide a path for workers whose skills have become obsolete to upgrade or retrain
 - Provide business and industry with information to identify workforce availability to meet industry strategic plans, and to estimate future availability

State Examples:

- Mississippi has successfully used their SLDS, [LifeTracks](#) to attract more than 100 new businesses; Toyota and Yamaha being two of the largest
- Using real-time data from their SLDS Mississippi was able to provide the following information to Yamaha which led to Yamaha opening a tire factory in their state
 - Began with a baseline of the current workforce
 - Identified how many engineers were in the community college, career technical and public university pipeline
 - Demonstrated all the degree categories in the area to determine the skills available to fill jobs
 - Identified the number of job seekers in the area
 - Identified a workforce that was 65-70% read to fill jobs
 - Identified skill gaps that could be closed prior to the factory opening
- Mississippi developed [MS Grad jobs](#) using their SLDS, which is used to match jobs with the skills and education being pursued and obtained by students. 30% of

engineers stayed in the state, since the development of MS Grad Jobs, Mississippi is able to retain 60% of all engineers.

- [Minnesota – Data in Use](#)
 - Minnesota Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System brings together data from education and workforce to:
 - Identify the most viable pathways for individuals in achieving successful outcomes in education and work;
 - Inform decisions to support and improve education and workforce policy and practice, and
 - Assist in creating a more seamless education and workforce system for all Minnesotans

- [Washington](#) – Education Research & Data Center – Economic Returns of a Washington Education
 - The Education Research & Data Center links education and workforce data from multiple state agencies, and transform them into insights that inform Washington decision-makers.

- [Arkansas Research Center](#) – [Economic Security Report](#) – Arkansas Education to Employment Outcomes for Graduates from State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education

- [Michigan](#) – [Career Pathfinder](#) shows workforce outcomes for graduates of programs at Michigan postsecondary institutes



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Alaska Education and Workforce Outcomes Data System (Outcomes Database)

February 2018

What is the Outcomes Database?

The Outcomes Database is a shared resource of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE), the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD), and the University of Alaska (UA), used to securely share data to evaluate outcomes of programs managed by one of these four organizations. The Outcomes Database is currently housed at ACPE.

What is the history of the Outcomes Database? Is it related to ANSWERS?

The Outcomes Database was initially developed under the ANSWERS program, but it is not part of the ANSWERS program, which is now defunct, and it is not used for ANSWERS research.

In July 2012, the State of Alaska was awarded a \$4 million federal Institute of Education Services (IES) grant to build a Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS). Alaska's SLDS was created in accordance with [Administrative Order 261](#) and named ANSWERS. The purpose of ANSWERS was to link K-12, postsecondary and workforce data to provide critical information about Alaska's education and workforce outcomes. However, a 2016 amendment to the budget bill prevented use of federal receipts for ANSWERS in FY17, which resulted in a lack of funding to develop the proposed ANSWERS program and use the database created under the original grant.

In December 2016, Outcomes partner organizations agreed to retire the ANSWERS program and the associated plan for data expansion and use; the database created under the ANSWERS grant still exists and is now called the Alaska Education and Workforce Outcomes Database (Outcomes). Outcomes is being managed by ACPE as an internal resource and tool for the four partner agencies to analyze and evaluate outcomes of partner programs and services only.

Does the Outcomes Database collect new data?

No. The Outcomes Database de-identifies and links existing data only, and then stores the data in the state's secure data center.

What does HB221 do?

The purpose of HB221 is to allow the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to share unit-level unemployment insurance data with the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education for inclusion in the Alaska Education and Workforce Outcomes Data System. In accordance with Outcomes governance, only data for citizens who participated in the Alaska's public education system can be included in Outcomes.

HB221 prohibits sharing unit record data with the federal government.

HB221 also requires that records be de-identified. Personally identifiable information, including first name, last name, and middle name, social security number, student identification number, residential address, and mailing address is removed before placing the information in the database. This is consistent with current practice and governance requirements.

Do other states share unit-level labor/workforce data?

As of 2016, 28 states are sharing their state's labor/workforce data with their state's longitudinal data system; this is an increase of eight states since 2014.



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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March 2, 2018

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 cursive script, appearing to read "S. Butler".

Stephanie Butler
Executive Director