

Jon Lueth-AFP Kansas

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HB 2521 Alternative Teacher Licenses

Proponent

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Dear Chairwoman Williams and Members of the committee,

On behalf of Americans for Prosperity in Kansas, and the thousands of grassroots activists from across the state that engage with us every day, I thank you for this opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2521, a bill that would create a form of licensing recognition for alternative teacher credentials in Kansas. At a time of chronic teacher shortages in our state we celebrate the opportunity to breakdown barriers and allow for additional pathways into the workforce to support our children's educational needs.

The time is could not be more imperative than now to enact change as districts across the state continue to struggle to recruit and fill vacant teaching and administrator positions. The sheer number of steps, additional licensing requirements, monetary funds, and length of the present procedure are deterrents for highly skilled and talented individuals. Kansas is a beautiful state that offers bountiful opportunity, but many are not accessing those prospects as the barriers may seem too large.

Legislation such as this bill are critical steps to address the red tape that is stifling productivity and creating barriers to opportunity for families and qualified individuals ready to address the need for more teachers in the sunflower state.

We ask that the committee favorably support HB 2521 and encourage new pathways for qualified individuals to immediately start addressing the critical need to recruit teachers across the state.

Sincerely,

Jon Lueth

Deputy State Director

Americans For Prosperity Kansas