



LB 163 Testimony
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- The Coordinating Commission supports LB 163 for its goal of utilizing data to address the state's workforce needs and the role of higher education in addressing those needs.
- The Commission for many years has supported the Department of Labor in the production of reports similar to the one described in this bill. The Commission annually collects the names, degrees, and Social Security numbers of graduates from the State College System, the community colleges, and the University of Nebraska-Kearney. We then match that data with workforce wage data and forward it to the Department of Labor.
- The U.S. Department of Education has endorsed the Coordinating Commission's process for securely collecting and analyzing the student data used in the current Department of Labor reports. We are one of only a few entities nationwide to receive this endorsement. LB 163 is right to maintain the Commission's current role and, therefore, the current student-data security process.
- Three of the state's public postsecondary institutions do not contribute the necessary data for the Department of Labor's current reports – the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture. We recommend that all of the state's public postsecondary institutions participate in the data collection process outlined in LB 163. Any resulting report would be incomplete without them. High-school graduates are another key group missing from current analysis. There is little or no data on high-school graduates entering the workforce. The report described in this bill would benefit greatly from the addition of data on the state's high-school graduates who forego college and directly enter the workforce.