



KANSAS 4-H

FOUNDATION

Testimony in Support of HB2281 Providing for the Kansas 4-H foundation distinctive license plate

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Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I am Marissa Randel from the Pony Express 4-H Club in the Meadowlark Extension District, and I have the privilege of serving as a member of the Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council. It is an honor to be here testifying in support of House Bill 2281.

Kansas 4-H has a storied and strong history. It was established at the turn of the last century when researchers discovered that educating kids on new agricultural technologies was the most effective way to introduce new farming methods and to prepare the next generation of producers.

Today, 4-H is the largest youth organization in the state. With close to 20,000 young people in community clubs and more than 75,000 children having a 4-H experience each year, our organization continues to teach leadership, citizenship, career skills and teamwork through hands-on learning experiences in diverse areas of interest.

While traditional project areas such as growing livestock, clothing construction, and food and nutrition continue to be popular, there is also strong participation in projects like robotics, rocketry, computer science and other STEM programming. 4-H serves youth from the farm to our most populated cities.

My experience in 4-H has impacted my life in many ways. Throughout my 12 years of participation in various projects, 4-H has taught me many life skills including responsibility, time management, and public speaking. 4-H has also given me countless opportunities of a lifetime. I have traveled to Washington D.C. on two occasions on behalf of 4-H, where I met with congressional delegates. 4-H has helped me become confident in myself, which has prepared me speak to you and represent 4-H today. I'm thankful for 4-H, and all it has done for me.

Included with my written testimony today are results of an assessment of the real impacts of 4-H. The bottom line is that youth grow in all the ways the 4-H pledge states: their heads to clearer thinking, their hearts to greater loyalty, their hands to larger service, and their health to better living for their clubs, communities, country and world.

The Kansas 4-H license plate will allow Kansans to show their support and appreciation for all 4-H has offered our great state while generating needed funds to continue to grow the program. Every Kansas child deserves a 4-H experience, and we look forward to providing that opportunity. Thank you for your support. I'm happy to answer any questions when appropriate, Mr. Chairman.