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Testimony to House Judiciary Committee

February 14, 2013

Presented by United Community Services of Johnson County

UCS opposes HB 2188. The additional cost burden it places on nonprofit agencies will not benefit the residents of Kansas. United Community Services of Johnson County (UCS) is a small nonprofit human service planning organization that works in partnership with nonprofit organizations, local government and United Way.

For a big-picture perspective of HB 2188, we asked Dr. David Renz, director of the Midwest Center for Nonprofit Leadership, for his opinion.

“I am very concerned about the significant negative impact that this bill would have on a large share of Kansas nonprofits, especially the smaller community-based agencies that already are struggling with the challenges of meeting the growing needs of Kansans. While we support efforts to ensure agency accountability and transparency, the requirements of this bill will not enhance accountability in any substantive way yet they will greatly increase administrative overhead costs for these agencies. I have a concern that, in some cases, it also will force the disclosure of client information that should remain confidential. It will divert an even greater share of the precious resources of these agencies to administrative functions to generate information that is of very questionable utility. In fact, the most important aspects of the information that this bill requires already is required to be reported in the IRS Form 990 (i.e., reports on the amounts of money paid to the most highly-paid employees and contractors, and whether their status is that of insiders), where it is reported in a more useful way than an expenditure-by-expenditure report would afford.”

HB 2188 would be overly burdensome without providing measurable benefit for Kansans. Across the state, people would lose access to locally-based services as nonprofits reduced service delivery or closed their doors. As a result more people would turn to the public sector for aid.