

UNITED WE .

Testimony re: Kansas House Bill 2716
House Appropriations Committee

March 7th, 2022

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

My name is Wendy Doyle, and I am the President and CEO of United WE. The mission of United WE is to advance all women's economic and civic leadership.

We have had the opportunity to work with many of you over the past several years and greatly appreciate your work to solve the state's problems and unlock opportunities for women in the workforce along the way.

Last year's Wartime Veteran and First Responder Survivors' Grant Fund is a prime example. That important legislation created an education fund for spouses and family members of individuals that died or were injured in the line of duty. The fund allocated a total of \$350,000 to be awarded to up to 30 recipients per year. House Bill 2716 will clarify the definition of disability and spouse, as well as raise the \$350,000 annual monetary cap to \$500,000 to fully capture everyone in Kansas seeking to utilize this fund. United WE sees this as a step in the right direction to support the dignity and livelihood of survivors and families of Kansas' heroes.

I'm pleased, on behalf of United WE, to support House Bill 2716 because it would greatly benefit Kansas military and first responder families – women and men – by giving the children and spouses of veterans or first responders killed or injured in the line of duty with the opportunity to get a higher education without the stress of paying tuition or going into debt.

Investing in their families' ability to fully participate in the workforce is a fitting tribute to those individuals who chose to serve their communities. Thank you for the opportunity

to share our perspective with you and we look forward to continuing our work together so that the women of Kansas have every tool they need to meet their potential.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy D. Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wendy D. Doyle
President and CEO
United WE