

UNITED WE .

March 24, 2021

Testimony re: HB 2414

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

It's been my honor to work with many of you in previous legislative sessions on issues impacting women's economic and civic leadership as the President and CEO of the Women's Foundation. Our work to unlock the economic and civic leadership potential of women has never been more important as communities recover from the Coronavirus pandemic. The pandemic highlighted the cascading childcare crisis that many communities across the country, even in Kansas, are experiencing.

United WE's research studies on the Coronavirus Pandemic's Impact on Women in Missouri and Kansas was released in the spring of 2020 and emphasized the disproportionate impact access to childcare has on women. That's why we applaud efforts like Senate Bill 263 and House Bill 2414, which would expand current law by allowing an income tax credit for any employer providing child day care services. Our research and our discussions in recent months with families, childcare providers and education policy experts tell us that incentivizing employers to help increase their employees' access to childcare can have a tremendous impact on the overall childcare landscape. This is important because the McKinsey Global Institute found that the Kansas economy stands to grow by as much as 15% by 2025 if women's participation in the workforce increases. Access to childcare greatly impacts a woman's ability to stay in, or enter, the workforce because of social norms that still predominantly assigns women child rearing responsibilities and due to gender pay inequity. We're working to correct both issues and believe this legislation is a step in the right direction.

United WE has commissioned an update to the Status of Women in Kansas, including data and insights on the childcare issue. We look forward to sharing those findings with you this summer. Until then, please don't hesitate to contact me if United WE can be of assistance to you.

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