United WE

Testimony re: House Bill 2719
Proponent
Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

February 13th, 2026

Mr. Chairman Tarwater, Vice Chair Ward, Ranking Member Clayton and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the time, energy and effort you all give to making the state's economy flourish.
As you may recall from previous sessions, the mission of United WE is to advance all women's economic and civic leadership. Our quantitative and qualitative research tell us that unnecessary rules and regulations can be a hindrance to Kansans - particularly women who are 6.5% more likely than men to hold certifications or licenses, requiring them to navigate often complex, slow governmental regulatory processes.

United WE supports the elements of House Bill 2719 because the legislation would streamline processes by which regulations are implemented. This is a step forward that will accelerate regulatory frameworks by prioritizing and expediting the review and implementation of technical amendments. Additionally, this legislation will increase the state's competitiveness against other states because Kansas' current administrative rule process takes up to 12 months on average, whereas; other states take an average of about four months. Speed, clarity, consistency and certainty are foundational for the rulemaking process and House Bill 2719 helps provide those conditions.

Fully engaging women in the Kansas workforce is a driver for economic growth, stability, and productivity. Our Status of Women in Kansas research report told us several hard truths:

- Women in Kansas earn a median salary of $38,116, compared to $49,140 for men—an $11,000 gap.
- Women dominate in caring professions, which pay significantly less than technical and managerial roles.
- Kansas has the largest male-female self-employment gap in the country, with 11.1% of men self-employed versus only 7.1% of women.

We know that more work is needed to foster more economic growth for the women of this state. House Bill 2719 creates needed changes to bureaucratic processes and timelines, which will enable more growth and economic opportunity.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if we can assist your deliberations. Thank you for the opportunity to share United WE's perspective on this important issue for the state's economy.

Sincerely,

Wendy D. Doyle
President & CEO
United WE