United WE

Testimony re: House Bill 2719
Proponent
Senate Committee on Commerce

March 3, 2026

Mr. Chairman Alley, Vice Chair Owens, Ranking Member Faust-Goudeau 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 was pleased to support the elements of House Bill 2719 when it was introduced in the House because the legislation would streamline processes by which regulations are implemented. Our organization continues to support this legislation and see it as 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. United WE is very pleased to see this legislation move forward and we hope that this committee will favorably pass it through the Senate's committee process.

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