STATE OF KANSAS SENATE CHAMBER

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Chairwoman Bowers, Vice Chair McGinn, and Ranking Member Faust-Goudeau,

We represent different political parties, ideologies, and parts of the state, yet each of us strongly supports SB 63. As parents with children under 13, we know how difficult it is to juggle campaign and elected official duties with caregiving responsibilities. That is why we are in favor of SB 63, which would allow campaign funds to be used for expenses incurred for family caregiving services "when such expenses are incurred as a result of the candidate's candidacy for office or holding office and are directly related to or have an effect on the candidate's campaign activities or duties as an office holder."

In short, this legislation would allow more working parents and caregivers to seek and hold office, which would increase the representativeness of our elected officials at all levels.

We would also like to point out a few other reasons we support this legislation:

- <u>Transparency:</u> Under SB 63, all caregiving expenses would have to be publicly reported on campaign finance reports, just like any other campaign expense.
- <u>Voluntary:</u> It is completely up to the candidate or office holder as to whether they want to use their campaign funds for this purpose. They can choose to do so or choose not to do so as they see fit.
- Responsiveness: This legislation was passed out of this Committee unanimously last session, and this version incorporates all of the amendments that were made by this Committee.
- <u>Conformity:</u> 28 states, both Democratic and Republican, allow candidates to use their campaign funds on caregiving expenses, including Arkansas, Kentucky, Montana, and West Virginia. Passage of this legislation will bring Kansas into conformity with the growing majority of states.

Sincerely,

Sen. Corson

Sen. Blasi

Sen. Claeys

Son O'Shoo

Sen. Pittman

San Straub