



January 29, 2026

Jessica Lehnherr, President & CEO
United Way of Kaw Valley
Written-Only Opponent Testimony on SB 387
Senate Committee on Government Efficiency

Chairwoman Erickson and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 387. **United Way of Kaw Valley** serves Shawnee, Jackson, Jefferson, and Douglas Counties in northeast Kansas. **Nearly 40% of households in our service area fall below the ALICE threshold. ALICE stands for Asset-Limited Income-Constrained Employed.** Many of these families utilize the school lunch programs to feed their children and help bolster their monthly budgets. **United Way of Kaw Valley strongly opposes this legislation because it is a threat not only to the financial stability of working families but also threatens the educational opportunities for children in these families.** This bill would affect thousands of **hard-working Kansas families.**

Being poor is not only hard for Kansas families – it's expensive. ALICE families often pay more for basic necessities like food and housing. Food costs are higher in areas where grocery stores are sparse, and these families cannot buy in bulk and thus miss out on discounts and better prices. **Housing costs are often higher** in rental properties due to higher utility costs. **We need state policies that work for everyone, especially our hard-working ALICE families.**

Thank you for the opportunity to give voice to the concerns of **ALICE families in Kansas.** As always, I am here as a resource for you. Don't hesitate to contact me at jlehnherr@uwkawvalley.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Lehnherr".

Jessica Lehnherr

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