

UNITED WE .

Testimony re: HB 2648

House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

February 13, 2024

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

My name is Wendy Doyle, and I am the President and CEO of United WE. As you may recall from previous sessions, the mission of United WE is to advance all women's economic and civic leadership.

I'm pleased to write to you today in support of HB 2648 and propose an amendment to ensure that occupational regulation is carefully considered, prioritizing public benefit and the least restrictive measures to protect the general welfare.

This amendment aims to establish structured guidelines for evaluating proposals to regulate occupations not covered before July 1, 2024. By promoting transparency and informed decision-making, we aim to facilitate individuals' pursuit of their chosen professions without unnecessary government intervention.

We believe this would help create a culture of economic empowerment for women in Kansas. Our research report, the [Status of Women in Kansas](#), told us that women are more likely to hold a certification or license than employed men. For that reason, United WE works to remove barriers faced by women in professions that are governed by occupational licensing regulatory boards and frameworks.

Adding this language to HB 2648 is the right approach to facilitate more informed decision-making, prevent duplicative and unnecessary regulatory boards from being created, and create a more efficient occupational licensing structure for women entrepreneurs, employed professionals, and all Kansans. According to the McKinsey Global Institute, the Kansas economy can grow by 10-15% by 2025 if women are fully participating in the workforce. This legislation is a step in the right direction.

Thank you for the opportunity to share United WE's perspective on this bill.

Sincerely,

Wendy D. Doyle

Wendy D. Doyle
President and CEO
United WE