

February 20, 2024

Kathleen Marker, CEO

YWCA Northeast Kansas

Written-Only Proponent Testimony for HB 2687

House Committee on Taxation

Chairman Smith and members of the Committee:

At YWCA Northeast Kansas, we see first-hand how families in our community struggle to afford basic needs and services for their children. That is why I'm writing today **in support of HB 2687**, which would establish a state child tax credit.

YWCA Northeast Kansas is a 501(c)(3) organization on a mission to eliminate racism and empower women. We offer affordable childcare, economic empowerment programs, and services for survivors of intimate partner violence. Based on the structure of the tax credit proposed in HB 2687, we know exactly how much of an impact this bill could have on the women and families that we serve.

Here is one example: For families making below \$25,000, the credit of \$600 per child will cover a significant portion of the cost of a summer day camp program, providing much-needed stability for families of school-age children during a stressful time of year for working parents, when school is out for summer break.

This state child tax credit will especially benefit female-headed households, which have lower earnings and are more likely to experience poverty. Women often carry the double burden of working for lower pay while also having more caregiving responsibilities in the home. Meanwhile, the cost of infant care in Kansas is 1.3 times more expensive than the cost of in-state college tuition, and averages 29 percent of women's median earnings – one of the highest percentages in the country.¹ Putting more money back into the pockets of hard-working Kansas families helps them rise above these challenges.

At YWCA, we believe that parents and caregivers deserve the opportunity to make financial decisions that have a positive impact on their children's well-being and future. Please pass HB 2687 and give Kansas families the support and stability they need to thrive.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at (785) 233-1750 or kathleenm@ywcaneks.org. Thank you.

About YWCA Northeast Kansas: YWCA Northeast Kansas is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all through various programs including the Early Learning Center, the YWCA Center for Safety and Empowerment, the YWCA Leadership Academy, and racial justice and advocacy programming which serve over 13,000 women, children, and marginalized individuals in Shawnee, Jackson, Brown, and Wabaunsee counties every year. If you or someone you know is experiencing intimate partner violence and needs help, please call the 24-hour crisis line: 1-888-822-2983. For more information, visit www.ywcaneks.org

¹ Center for Science, Technology & Economic Policy (CSTEP), Institute for Policy & Social Research, The University of Kansas (2021). *The Status of Women in Kansas: A Summary Report to United WE*. Retrieved from <https://ipsr.ku.edu/publicat/StatusofWomeninKansas2021.pdf>.

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