



United Community Services of Johnson County

Written-Only Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 164

Julie Brewer, Executive Director of United Community Services of Johnson County

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Executive Director

Julie K. Brewer

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Julie K. Brewer, Executive Director
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Chair Tyson and Members of the Committee on Assessment and Taxation:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify **in support of Senate Bill 164**. United Community Services of Johnson County (UCS) is a nonprofit agency that provides data analysis, leads collaborative planning, and mobilizes resources to enhance the availability and delivery of health and human services in Johnson County and the surrounding region. UCS is committed to building a community where all people have the opportunity to achieve their individual potential. We believe in the importance of supporting policies, programs and services that are invested in the success of our community's most vital resource - its people.

Workforce development is a foremost consideration for Kansans. ***Among the more than 145,000 minor children in Johnson County, 75% of them have both parents in the labor force and those minor children require some form of care while their parents are working.*** The childcare market is extremely challenging, workers are difficult to recruit and retain because of the low wages in the field. The median salary for childcare workers in Johnson County is \$22,911 per year. Even childcare workers at the highest end of the salary scale earn an average of only \$30,848 per year. Additionally, the cost of childcare stands out as one of the biggest barriers to keeping women in the workforce. Data from the 2021 Status of Women in Kansas report from United WE finds that infant care at daycare centers in Kansas is 1.3 times more expensive than in-state college tuition. SB 164 works to provide tax relief to childcare workers without increasing the cost of care for working families with minor children.

Proposed Senate Bill 164 would provide a \$2,000 tax credit to childcare workers who work at least 900 hours a year for programs serving thirteen children or more; this tax credit effectively serves as a wage increase for those workers. **UCS supports Senate Bill 164 which supports increased workforce engagement by supporting childcare workers.**

Senate Bill 164 represents a fiscally responsible measure to support workforce development in Kansas. UCS advocates for the advancement of fiscally responsible policies that support workforce growth and families' ability to reach and maintain economic stability. Implementing **Senate Bill 164** is a modest measure that will provide direct support to childcare workers who support hardworking families in being able to go to work. **UCS supports Senate Bill 164.**