



United Way of Kaw Valley

To: Senate Committee on Public Health & Welfare  
From: Jessica Lehnherr, CEO, United Way of Kaw Valley  
Date: March 20, 2023  
RE: Opposition to SB 234

Dear Chair Gossage and Committee Members,

United Way of Kaw Valley (UWKV) brings together people, companies, and nonprofits to help individuals and families not just survive but thrive. We work to solve issues no single donor, charity or government agency can handle alone. We work with residents, and public and private partners to co-create solutions that ensure everyone has the resources, support, opportunities, and networks they need to thrive.

We strongly oppose SB 234 as it makes it more difficult for our partners, like our local health departments, to participate in our network. Many of the information privacy provisions of this bill already exist within our network, and our local health department carries out key programs which are vital to our network. We need fewer barriers to their participation not more.

For more than four years, we have worked with cross-sector partners to build a community coordinated resource and referral network across Shawnee County to improve outcomes for individuals and families across our community. Through this network of partners with our largest hospital system, largest school district, and nonprofits large and small, we are working to provide more opportunities for individuals and families to remove barriers to access and find the resources they need to live healthy lives. This system of partners will:

- Reduce costs through upstream approaches to care that ensure people have the resources they need to avoid crisis situations;
- Improve systems of care delivery through key partnerships that ultimately drive down health care costs as hospital systems rely on the expertise of community based organizations;
- Improve the health of Kansans so that more individuals can provide for their families and go beyond meeting just their most basic needs.

Thank you for your service on behalf of our State.

Sincerely,

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

Jessica Lehnherr  
President and CEO, United Way of Kaw Valley

**UNTIL THE FIGHT IS WON**

Creating and cultivating an unbreakable network of support  
for a strong, healthy and equitable community

*Leave a legacy of impact.*

**United Way of Kaw Valley**  
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