



United Way of Kaw Valley

To: Senate Committee on Assessment & Taxation  
From: Jessica Lehnerr, CEO, United Way of Kaw Valley  
Date: February 13, 2023  
RE: Opposition to SB 169

Dear Chair Tyson 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 commit to leveraging all our assets to create more equitable communities. Over the past decade, UWKV has invested in the areas of Early Education, On-Grade Achievement, Financial Stability, Health, Substance Abuse, and Basic Needs.

Each year, we serve thousands of individuals and families in Shawnee, Douglas, Jackson, and Jefferson counties who struggle to make ends meet. Through our grant partners, we work to make more families financially stable so they can enter (or remain) in the workforce and help their communities thrive.

But we recognize that it takes all of us to ensure that families have what they need to thrive and not just survive. They need robust family support programs that allow for them to access the resources they need in times of difficulty and crisis to create an environment where they can be successful. The individuals and families served by United Way of Kaw Valley are young and old, able and disabled, seniors and veterans, who need our support.

We strongly oppose SB 169 as tax policy which does not work for all Kansans. This tax proposal favors the few instead of the many, many of whom are served by United Way of Kaw Valley and our more than 50 partner agencies who provide vital services to individuals and families each day. Those services rely on responsible and effective tax policy at the state level to provide basic services like financial supports, education, and others that leverage local dollars and ensure more families have the chance to thrive.

We strongly oppose SB 169 as tax policy that fails to prioritize Kansas families and basic state services upon which so many of them need to be successful. Thank you for your service on behalf of our State.

Sincerely,

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

Jessica Lehnerr

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**  
Topeka Office  
1527 SW Fairlawn Rd  
Topeka, KS 66604