

United Way of Greater Kansas City

801 W. 47th Street, Suite 500
Kansas City, MO 64112
tel (816) 472-4289

www.unitedwaygkc.org

LIVE UNITED



Kansas House Judiciary Committee

Written Testimony

February 11, 2013

The Honorable Lance Kinzer
The Honorable Rob Bruchman

Members of House Judiciary Committee:

Opposition to House Bill 2188

On behalf of United Way of Greater Kansas City (United Way), we are writing to express opposition to HB2188. United Way supports a strong nonprofit, charitable sector as vital to the well-being of residents across Kansas. The unintended consequence of HB2188 would be to siphon dollars away that currently contribute to essential services and quality of life in communities across Kansas. Instead, dollars that help people would be shifted into administrative record keeping.

The Great Recession took its toll on charitable funding for health and human services. In 2012 meetings with United Way's 150 agency partners, we listened to nonprofit leaders talk repeatedly about the pressures of serving more people – even as many of their funding sources declined. The strongest single message that came from these meetings was a plea for sustained funding for the core operating costs that serve people. HB 2188 would move money into accounting functions that now meets real needs in Kansans lives.

Health and human services in this country is stronger because it is a public private partnership. United Way knows that public funding is critical to the ability of the nonprofit sector to deliver positive results and change lives. United Way's agency partners in many instances marry their communities' charitable contributions with public grants to meet critical needs, such as protecting children who are abused and neglected, serving meals to home-bound seniors, contributing to the school success of children in early and extended learning centers – to name just a few.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide opposition to HB2188.

Sincerely,



Brent A. Stewart, Sr.

President and CEO

United Way of Greater Kansas City