



# United Community Services of Johnson County

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## Executive Director

Julie K. Brewer

Date: February 7, 2017

Julie K. Brewer, Executive Director  
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Neutral Testimony on HB 2237

Dear Chairman Johnson and members of the House Taxation Committee:

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 programs and services that are invested in the success of our community's most vital resource - its people.

More than 30,000 residents in Johnson County live in poverty, 5.3% of the population. Nearly 90,000 residents, or 15.6% of the population, are low-income defined as 200% of the federal poverty level. A strong safety net and the strategic use of tax credits can help these families meet the cost of living, sustain their households, and achieve economic security. Responsible tax policy can facilitate a strong safety net for all Kansas residents.

To that end, UCS advocates for the advancement of fiscal and taxation policies that support citizens' ability to reach and maintain economic stability. We believe the state's current fiscal condition requires participation and investment from all Kansas income earners through targeted and measured tax increases that appropriately spread the share of taxes and ensures the availability of necessary government services.

As the House Taxation Committee looks at resolutions to the state's budget deficit, we encourage the committee to find long term sustainable solutions that do not rely upon the use of "sweeps" to move funds from "dedicated funds" to the state general fund to be used for other than their intended purpose.