



February 08, 2024

Re: House Bill 2646

Dear Members of the Committee:

As you may recall, I am the President and CEO of United WE, whose mission is to advance all women's economic and civic leadership. Our organization is deeply appreciative of your leadership on critical issues that unlock opportunities for women. I am writing today on an issue that furthers that work.

United WE has supported the Kansas Heroes Scholarship for several years, as this funding supports the women and families of military members and first responders who have made the ultimate sacrifice. House Bill 2646 deepens this fund's impact by removing the limitation of \$500,000 in a fiscal year and allowing the aggregate limit for financial assistance established by the board of regents based on appropriated amounts.

United WE believes this change helps to fully capture everyone in Kansas seeking to utilize this fund. This bill is a step in the right direction to support the dignity and livelihood of survivors and families of Kansas' heroes. Investing in their families' ability to fully participate in the workforce is a fitting tribute to those individuals who chose to serve their communities.

Thank you again for all that you do to support the state's women. Please feel free to reach out if there is any way in which United WE can better help in our shared fight to advance the status of women in Kansas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy D. Doyle".

Wendy D. Doyle
President &
CEO United WE