



United Community Services of Johnson County

Date: February 4, 2022

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Julie K. Brewer, Executive Director
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Chairman Olson and Members of the Committee on Federal and State Affairs:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify **in support of Senate Bill 376**. 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 area. UCS is also tasked with directing the Continuum of Care on Homelessness in Johnson County.

There is an inadequate supply of workforce housing in Kansas, as reported by the statewide housing study released this year by the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation. Across the state of Kansas over 42% of all renters are cost burdened by their housing, paying more than 30% of their income on housing.

Both the recently released [Kansas Statewide Housing Assessment 2021](#) and the [Johnson County Municipalities Community Housing Study](#) support the creation of and investment in housing trust funds as a tool to create mechanisms to share the responsibility and opportunity to invest in attainable housing solutions for communities large and small who struggle with housing choice for residents. Housing trust funds can also be a means to sustain the long-term affordability of properties developed through the fund. As noted in the statewide assessment, *Kansas may have a unique opportunity to provide a substantial injection into the State Housing Trust fund that could address many of the issues identified in the assessment and support generations to come.*

Access to safe, stable, attainable housing is key to the health and wellbeing of a vital and productive Kansas workforce. Addressing gaps or challenges to meeting housing needs throughout the state through funding and expanding access to the state housing trust fund is an investment in the growth and sustainability our state.

UCS advocates to support safe, stable, attainable housing and supports **SB 376** as an effort to provide and preserve affordable housing options across the state of Kansas.