

**Testimony of
Jack Sossoman**

**Before the Education Committee
Kansas House of Representatives**

**Regarding H.B. 2139
Postsecondary education; tuition and fees for aliens**

February 24, 2015

Chairman Highland and Members of the Committee, I come before you today in my personal capacity to provide testimony in support of H.B. 2139, Postsecondary education; tuition and fees for aliens. My personal opinion is that the short title should be "Postsecondary education; tuition and fees for non-citizens of Kansas including, illegal aliens". This is what this bill really addresses and will change, if passed. In addition, these in-state tuition and fee grants for illegal aliens, primarily paid for by the legal citizenry and residents of Kansas, are approximately \$2.5 million yearly per your own legislative research department's estimates. If we would stop this practice, that \$2.5 million would return to the Budget. Kansans are currently being robbed of this money.

If a young adult (US citizen) from Nebraska would come to Kansas to attend a postsecondary school, he would pay out of state tuition. However, a person who comes to Kansas and is not a US citizen under current law could obtain "preferred status" in order to obtain in-state tuition. This just does not make any sense to most citizens and residents of Kansas. I would also mention that a large number of these non-US citizens will not remain in Kansas and probably not in the US after their graduation from our great postsecondary educational institutions.

My testimony before you is short and should resonate with a great majority of Kansans. We need to repeal in-state tuition given to anyone who is not a US citizen.

I humbly thank you for your time in hearing my testimony.

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