



Kansas of League of United Latin American Citizens

P.O Box 3393 • Topeka, Kansas 66604

Tuesday February 24, 2015

To: Education Chairman Representative Highland, and committee members

Presented by: Michelle Cuevas-Stubblefield, 4811 NW Redwood Drive, Topeka, Kansas 66618 785.213.5543
State Director, Kansas League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

In opposition to HB 2139 Testimony

Education Chairman Rep. Highland and Committee Members

I am Michelle Cuevas-Stubblefield and I stand before as the State Director of the Kansas League of United Latin American Citizens - better known as Kansas LULAC. We have Councils across this Great State and are a part of the national LULAC organization. We oppose HB 2139 to repeal in-state tuition for the immigrant student.

I ask the committee to please listen with an open mind and open heart. I ask that you determine what really is at play here today. It is disheartening to see Representatives Rubin, Barker, Barton, Bradford, Hedke, Hildabrand, Hutchins, K. Jones, Kiegerl, Lunn, Macheers, Osterman, Peck, Read, Suellentrop and Suttongo put forth a bill that attacks some of Kansas' most vulnerable - our children.

HB 2139 is an attack on young students working hard, to make life better for themselves, and their families. They are preparing for their future as they continue to be a positive influence and aspiring leaders in their community. Many of these young immigrants being targeted came to America at a very young age, they have lived here for what most kids would say is their whole life. They have American values with Hispanic roots and they see their future in America and in Kansas.

These students are not getting a free ride - they are paying for their education often void of scholarships and support because of their status. They should not be deprived of educational access because they were brought here at a young age. What is gained by denying an immigrant students the chance to pursue a dream and become successful contributors to the community and the economy?

Several of you on the committee have an academic background and understand the importance of education. These students have been apart of the Kansas educational system, Why waste that investment - lets maximize that investment and garner a ROI of a more educated and professional workforce.

We need people to live, work and prosper in Kansas. We are a State that continues to lose young professionals as they migrate to other States. This bill only slams the door on future engineers, doctors, entrepreneurs and business leaders for our State.

So what is really a play? It is fear mongering, simple hatred. It is a bait and switch of the conversations that should be taking place in the Statehouse. It is a continued attack on modern thought, equality, and an attack on human dignity for every individual. Kansas LULAC opposes HB 2139 and I hope both your heart and your head tell you to shut this bill down.

Thank you for your time and consideration.