



Kansas League of United Latin American Citizens
P.O. Box 3933 • Topeka, Kansas 66604

2/3/2016

To: The Judiciary Committee
From: Michelle Cuevas-Stubblefield, State Director of Kansas LULAC

Opposition of HB 2466

I am **Michelle Cuevas-Stubblefield, State Director of the Kansas League of United Latin American Citizens** and granddaughter of Mexican immigrants to the United States. I appreciate the Judiciary Committee's time so that I may provide some education and information to inform this committee that House Bill 2466 is not needed.

First, if you have some change in your pocket, pull out a coin. Notice a phrase on that coin - *E pluribus unum*.

According to the US Treasury, the Latin motto *E pluribus unum* was first used on U.S. coinage in 1795. It appears on all coins currently manufactured by the U.S. Mint.

The traditionally understood meaning of the phrase was that out of many states emerges a single nation. Over time, its meaning has come to suggest that out of many peoples, races, religions, languages, and ancestries has emerged a single people and nation.

In 1939, the phrase *E pluribus unum* was also uttered by the Wizard in the movie *The Wizard of Oz*. Unfortunately, much like the wizard in the movie when he states, "Please pay no attention to the man behind the curtain," the legislators who want to pass House Bill 2466 seem to want to say to the citizens of Kansas: "Please pay no attention to the facts behind House Bill 2466." and do not understand the meaning of *E pluribus unum* AND do not want to report all the facts of this bill or its potential ramifications to the citizens of Kansas.

Fact: Undocumented immigrants in Kansas contribute monetarily in a large way to the Kansas economy?

Unauthorized immigrants in Kansas paid \$58.9 million in state and local taxes in 2010, including \$46.6 million in sales taxes, \$7.9 million in state income taxes, and \$4.4 million in property taxes, according to data from the Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy.

Moreover, if all unauthorized immigrants were removed from Kansas, the state would lose \$1.8 billion in economic activity, \$807.2 million in gross state product, and approximately 11,879 jobs, even accounting for adequate market adjustment time, according to a report by the Perryman Group.

The reason this is important for the citizens of Kansas to know is that if Kansas were to basically eliminate this entire unauthorized immigrant population from Kansas, the remaining citizens of Kansas would have to make up this income and those most likely to be affected in the form of increased taxes or budget cuts would be the middle class and working poor; The burden would fall squarely on the shoulders of those least likely to be able to afford this impact.

While the legislators who want to pass this bill see it as a way to regulate roughly 2.6% of the Kansas (or 75,000) population based on 2012 data according to a report by the Pew Hispanic Center. It will be the approximately 97% of the population, particularly those already impacted by recent tax increases, the poor, that will be affected by this legislation.

This bill is not in response to a problem on the rise. It is a red herring meant to distract the Kansas populace from the real crisis – the budget. And, as I have expressed, the passage of this bill would only magnify the state's budget dilemma. The

introduction of this bill is in response to the fears and prejudices about what some imagine immigrants to be. As a result, it is a bill drafted on the basis of stereotypes rather than substance. This is ironic, since the US is a country built and founded on the backs of immigrants to this country - my grandparents included.

Finally, *The Wizard of Oz* has a memorable quote from the character Dorothy Gayle about her family in Kansas that I would love to be as appropriate today as when she spoke it in the classic 1939 movie.

To each of the legislators who are proposing House Bill 2466:

“There’s no place like home.”

If we want to keep Kansas great and if the members of the Kansas Legislature are truly concerned about the welfare of the citizens of Kansas as well as their pocketbooks, they will vote “No” on House Bill 2466.

E pluribus unum!

- 4 min -

Michelle Cuevas-Stubblefield
State Director of Kansas League of United Latin American Citizens
4811 NW Redwood Drive • Topeka, Kansas 66618
785.213.5543 • kslulac@gmail.com