

Mariana Ramírez
Testimony Opposing SCR 1602
Written Only Opponent Testimony of SCR 1602
For the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

February 10, 2025

Chair Thompson and Members of the Committee,

Thanks for the opportunity to submit a testimony in opposition to SCR 1602, urging Gov. Kelly to fully cooperate with the current administration in enforcing federal immigration laws. My name is Mariana Ramírez, 12-year long resident of Johnson County, KS, mother of two and social worker by training. I would like to express my opposition to SCR 1602 as I strongly believe it would have devastating consequences in our community while diverting critical state and local resources from their intended use.

Ordering our local law enforcement to fully cooperate with the Department of Homeland Security would discourage individuals, not only undocumented immigrants but likely their U.S. citizen families and friends, from reporting crime and it would erode the trust that law enforcement has built in those communities. Recent [research](#) by faculty at Pennsylvania State University and the University of Maryland demonstrated that federal-local law enforcement collaboration did not reduce crime but rather increased the risk about some groups. Moreover, such enforcement has the potential to increase the costs associated with crime for local communities. A 2021 [study](#) from Colorado State University showed that violent crimes, particularly robberies and assaults, had a decrease of 17.9 per 100,000 inhabitants per year in counties where law enforcement had no cooperation with Immigration Enforcement when compared to counties that did cooperate with the federal agency. Counties that did not cooperate with ICE avoided

\$101 million per year in crime costs while those cooperating with ICE increased such costs in local communities by \$3.28 billion per year.

Finally, forcing Kansans to divert our resources to enforce immigration which is a federal responsibility, is fiscally irresponsible. It adds a burden to our local communities and government while taking resources away from their intended use.

I urge the committee to oppose SCR 1602 and instead keep our communities safe and make responsible use of our taxpayer dollars.

Thanks for considering,
Mariana Ramírez
atinairam@gmail.com