

Federal and State Committee
300 SW 10th Ave
Topeka, KS 66612

Chairman Kessler,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding policies targeting the Latino community, particularly those emphasized in Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1602. While ensuring public safety and adherence to the rule of law is important, the resolution's approach risks undermining both the moral fabric and the economic stability of our state.

If implemented, these measures could crater our state budget, jeopardizing 48,000 jobs that depend on a stable and integrated workforce. Additionally, Mexico, Kansas's largest trading partner, is vital to our economic health. With annual exports exceeding \$3 billion, any policy that alienates or disrupts our relationship with the Latino community, including immigrant workers and businesses, could damage this critical trade relationship.

Policies that disproportionately target or stigmatize the Latino community will have ripple effects across industries, including construction, agriculture, manufacturing, and services, which rely heavily on contributions from this community. Instead of fostering growth, these policies could exacerbate labor shortages, increase costs for businesses, and reduce tax revenues, placing further strain on the state's budget and increasing inflationary pressures. In 2022, the State of Kansas collected \$208,000,000 in taxes alone from the Latino community and that figure is due to continue to increase year-over-year.

Moreover, alienating a key trading partner like Mexico would weaken Kansas's competitive position in the global market. The relationship that we have with Mexico is a \$4.2 billion (\$3.0 export and \$1.2 import) and a reduction in trade activity could further strain local businesses and diminish opportunities for growth and innovation in our state.

I urge you to oppose any measures that risk harming the Latino community and, by extension, Kansas's economy. Instead, I encourage you to champion policies that:

1. **Support workforce stability:** Ensure fair treatment of all workers and prevent labor disruptions.
2. **Promote trade partnerships:** Strengthen relationships with key trade partners like Mexico to protect Kansas's \$3 billion export industry.
3. **Foster inclusivity:** Create an environment where all communities, including Latino immigrants, feel valued and can contribute to the state's economic and cultural vitality.

Targeting any community is not only unjust but also counterproductive to Kansas' economic prosperity. Our policies must reflect values of equity and economic foresight.

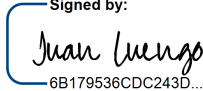
Consider this: If the Latino community were a separate country, its \$3.6 trillion economy would rank as the fifth largest in the world, surpassing Germany. Kansas benefits directly from this economic power through tax revenues. Moreover, the Latino community starts businesses at twice the rate of any other group, creating jobs, paying taxes, manufacturing goods, and providing essential services to all Kansans.

Currently, Kansas ranks 29th—behind Missouri (18th)—in *America's Top States for Business 2024* ([CNBC](#))¹. We can and should do better by prioritizing pro-business policies that retain and attract businesses and talent.

Instead of wasting time on ineffective policies, Mr. Kobach should focus on the real threats, cybercriminals who are creating chaos and handicapping our state.

Thank you for your time and attention to this pressing matter. I urge you to consider the broader implications of these policies and take a stand for what is best for Kansas.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

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Juan C. Luengo
Concerned Citizen

¹ CNBC Staff "America's Top States for Business 2024: The full rankings:
<https://www.cnbc.com/2024/07/11/americas-top-states-for-business-full-rankings.html>