

Meaghan Schaible

Private Citizen

2/21/2025

SB 254

Oral in-person

My name is Meaghan Schaible, and I am a lifelong resident of Johnson County and a mother who believes every child in Kansas deserves a fair chance at getting an education. I am here today to strongly oppose Senate Bill 254, which would take away in-state tuition from undocumented students who have grown up in our communities, graduated from our schools, and want nothing more than to continue their education.

This bill isn't about distant strangers—it's about our neighbors, our children's friends, the kids we welcome into our homes after school. My kids play with these students in the park, work on school projects together, and cheer for each other at games. They are not "aliens" or outsiders—they are an important part of our community.

The students affected by this bill didn't choose to be undocumented, but they are choosing to work hard, to pursue an education, and to build a future here in Kansas. SB 254 would punish them for circumstances beyond their control by making college financially out of reach. These students already face immense challenges—why would we make it even harder for them to contribute to our state?

Let's be clear: in-state tuition is not a free ride. These students pay their own way out of pocket for their tuition and receive no federal financial aid. They are simply asking for the same opportunity as their classmates—the chance to afford a college education in the state they call home. If we take that away, we risk pushing them out and limiting their potential to give back to the Kansas economy.

Kansas should be a place that rewards hard work and dedication, not one that puts up unnecessary barriers for students striving for a better future. I urge you to reject SB 254 and stand up for the values of fairness, opportunity, and community. Let's not close doors on young people who are already part of the fabric of our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.