

Marcus Winn
Private Citizen
Oral In-Person Opponent Testimony of SB 254
For the Senate Committee on Federal & State Affairs

February 27, 2025

Chair Thompson and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. My name is Marcus Winn. I'm a private citizen and resident of Kansas City, KS in Wyandotte County.

Where I live, many remember when our streets were empty, storefronts boarded up, and families moving away. Today, our businesses are thriving, our housing revitalized, our economy growing—because immigrant families invested in our community.

I am not an immigrant myself. On paper, this bill doesn't affect me. But, in reality, it affects all of us. According to the Census, 78 counties lost population between 2020 and 2022. At a time when we need to reverse that trend, enacting punitive policies towards immigrants will make it worse, encouraging further population decline. These are customers of local businesses, and taxpayers. According to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, undocumented immigrants contribute an estimated \$208.2 million in local and state taxes across Kansas annually. Consider that many of these individuals live in mixed status families, and the economic impact only grows larger. Drive them away and those taxes will be passed on to those of us who remain.

While we face real challenges, this bill does nothing to fix them.

Immigrant kids pursuing an education aren't causing grocery prices to keep going up.

Immigrant kids pursuing an education aren't sending away good paying jobs.

Immigrant kids pursuing an education aren't causing rural hospitals to close.

Immigrant kids pursuing an education aren't causing crime to go up.

I encourage you to reject this political theater and work towards policies that will better the lives on everyday Kansans. Thank you.