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Written Comment Submitted 2/26/25

Request to provide Public Comment 2/27/25

Opposition to SB254

SBR254

*The immigrants who are being targeted with this legislation the majority of those you call immigrants are indigenous to the land stolen from them - but you will not erase us, your bigotry, hate, is all you are remembered by either in the digital world, because believe me, you will not make it to the history books-.*

**You should be ashamed:**

- 1) Of diminishing the autonomy of the state of Kansas to support federal agencies that already have enough of our resources*
- 2) AND for your attack on our immigrant communities- who are some of the main economic drivers in the state and this nation.*
- 3) For wasting our time on new legislation that does so very little – because most of this is already the law. This legislation merely punishes a handful of youth – who by no choice of their own, were brought here to this supposed land of opportunity – Opportunity which if passed, this bill would destroy.*

**Health and Safety for Everyone**

*If we learned anything from the pandemic it is the value of vaccination for all. When anyone goes without a vaccine that puts EVERYONE at risk – not just that person or their family. Taking away vaccines from anyone doesn't punish that person - it punishes the entire community. All you have to do is look at Texas to see what foregoing vaccinations can do to entire communities – and potentially our nation.*

*While different – the same can be said for taking away opportunity from young adults. A smart mind unoccupied gets into trouble and in my experience into good trouble. Why on earth would we not invite anyone to study at the universities in KS to grow our regional workforce – to keep our communities vibrant and employed with competitive jobs? Charging a local out of state tuition won't mean people will pay more, it means they won't go to school here – and perhaps they won't go to school at all. That is counterintuitive to everything we should be doing to retain intelligence and hard workers in our state – in a part of the country where, especially of able-bodied people, are dwindling rapidly, because your base are uneducated, and many have amnesia or simply just racist.*

**Work and Money argument**

*IMMIGRANTS come here to work. Businesses hire immigrant workers and grow their profit margin. Immigrants create a higher demand for goods and services and thus create more jobs. Immigrants contribute approximately \$2.2 trillion annually to the U.S. economy, accounting for close to 8 percent of the country's gross domestic product. That is larger than the whole Canadian economy.*

*Tens of thousands of state and local employees—social workers, public safety, teachers, bus drivers, nurses, mental health counselors, and more—are already struggling and more stand to lose resources or funding that they rely on to do their jobs serving our communitie*

## **Balance of power**

**As you should know , state and local agencies do not generally segregate their funding allocations for citizens versus noncitizens, let alone noncitizens without legal status versus all others.**

**Siding with the federal administration could actually freeze resources to the sunshine state**

**This state bill would undermine our constitutional balance of powers in two ways:**

- 1) Escalating federal intimidation of state and local governments and the people who live in the state, including but not at all limited to immigrants. The Kansas Legislature continues to cave and give in to the intimidation, including threatening state and local officials for not assisting with the federal deportation. We should be pursuing our own autonomy, under the 10th amendment of the Constitution state and local governments have authority over their own resources. While this bill targets immigration, its passage would set the stage for the federal government to hold states and cities hostage. State and local agencies are not obligated to participate in fear tactics, misinformation and deportation drives – and our limited resources should be used in service of the residents of the state – not to do the work of federal agencies that use massive amounts of our tax dollars already – not to do what they already get paid to do. WE should be supporting – our roads, our children, our most vulnerable, our schools – and so forth.**
- 2) Second, the federal government cannot commandeer state and local government resources, and states and local governments have the right to refuse to enforce federal regulatory programs. While the federal government may impose restrictions on federal resources to the states, its power is limited by the Constitution. Now more than ever, upholding the Constitution is vital to our nation.**

**As Chief Justice Roberts wrote in *National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius*, “Congress may use its spending power to create incentives for States to act in accordance with federal policies. But when ‘pressure turns into compulsion,’ the legislation runs contrary to our system of federalism.”**

**As you all know, the Constitution guarantees citizenship to all people born or naturalized in the United States, and mandates that all states must provide "equal protection of the laws" to all persons within their jurisdiction – by the 14th Amendment to the U.S.**

## **Racist and Bigoted**

**SB1602 and other racist anti-immigrant legislation should be struck down, for the sake of Kansas's economic prosperity that is attributable to immigrants, indigenous and people of color.**

**Stop your rhetoric of further intimidation, hate, coercion and your continued harm,**

**Stop inflicting chaos on all children in schools, hospitals, and other institutions that you and our communities rely on.**

**Now more than ever, maintaining the separation of powers is vital to safeguarding the state of Kansas -human rights - issue and compassion. Do not forget migration happens, because of the violence and depletion of natural resources in the immigrants' own countries.**

**I AM IN OPPOSITION OF THIS IMPRACTICAL and BIGOTED LEGISLATION**

**Beto Martinez**