

February 20, 2025

Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Kansas State Capitol
300 SW 10th Ave
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: Opposition to Senate Bill 254

Dear Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs members,

I strongly oppose Senate Bill 254, which seeks to repeal Kansas' in-state tuition policy for immigrant students. I have been advocating for this policy for nearly 20 years. This policy has been a valuable investment in our state's economy and workforce, allowing students who have grown up and attended school in Kansas to pay instate tuition rates at their own expense for higher education and contribute to our communities.

A previous review of in-state tuition revealed that many of these students enroll in our local community colleges, strengthening the educational and economic fabric of our rural communities. These individuals not only study but also live in these areas, contributing to the local economy. Census reports indicate that approximately 80 of Kansas' 105 counties are experiencing population decline, driven by an aging population and lower birth rates. This ongoing trend underscores the importance of attracting and retaining talent to sustain our rural communities.

Kansas uses instate tuition policies to foster its postsecondary educational goals, including through reciprocal agreements and enticements for students from neighboring states. These tuition policies help universities to recruit and retain desired students in our communities and move our state forward.

It is a proven benefit to Kansas, and repealing it would harm our students, our rural communities and our future workforce. I urge you to vote against Senate Bill 254 and keep this vital opportunity in place.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lalo Muñoz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Lalo Muñoz
Shawnee County Resident