

**Testimony by Charlie Hunt with the Johnson County  
Department of Health & Environment (JCDHE) to  
Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee  
Written Opponent for SB 254 – February 27, 2025**

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 254 which requires proof of being lawfully in the country before any public benefit is provided. JCDHE's mission is to promote and protect the health and environment for all who live, work and play in Johnson County.

Family planning clinical services provided by JCDHE are supported in part by Title X federal funding which requires that services are available to anybody in need regardless of age, immigration status, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, income, or any other characteristic. The prenatal services provided by JCDHE through Title X funding prevent patients from needing emergency care and save lives. JCDHE's clinical services are also supported by the Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant Program. Title V funding ensures that pregnant women, especially those with low incomes and limited access to health care, have access to maternal and child health services. SB 254 would put JCDHE in jeopardy of being ineligible for Title X and Title V funding.

In addition, we have concerns regarding the administrative burden this bill would impose, both on our workforce and our clients. Generally, in healthcare, citizenship is not considered a prerequisite for essential health services such as prenatal care, cancer screenings, and vaccinations. Because citizenship is generally not a prerequisite, the client onboarding process would be slowed down by SB 254, resulting in clients having to wait even longer to gain access to necessary services. This would happen both in terms of our staff having to review documentation and whatever delays exist with vetting that information with the Department of Homeland Security. There would be costs associated with training staff in how to perform all these new functions, none of which would improve the quality of service provided. Further, the requirements of SB 254 would require electronic health records to be reconfigured to include a trackable screening process, which would be lengthy and expensive. SB 254 is inefficient and would reflect poorly on our ability to deliver quality customer service.

As such, JCDHE asks that the committee not recommend SB 254 favorably for passage.

Sincerely,

Charlie Hunt, Director  
Johnson County Department of Health & Environment

