

Hello and thank you for your time,
Chairperson and Members of the Committee

My name is Ariana Mercado. I am currently living in Leavenworth, KS. I am here today to testify in strong opposition against bill SB 254 / HB 2373.

This would hurt many individuals and communities, including people like my mother, who was an undocumented immigrant, but is now a legal citizen.

First and foremost, this bill would take away in-state tuition rates for undocumented students.. A diverse and educated workforce is what will drive this economy forward. So, this bill would limit the pool of skilled workers available to meet future demands.

Lastly, the heightened enforcement measures proposed in this bill would create an environment of fear and instability within immigrant communities. Overall, this would only create greater division causing companies that take in illegal immigrants to further their greed and take greater advantage of their situation for increasing profit.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to oppose SB 254 / HB 2373. Nonetheless the bill would create damaging effects on individuals, educational institutions, and communities. I ask that you consider the profound negative impacts and think as though you were in their position. Additionally it would be best in my opinion to instead advocate for more inclusive and supportive policies.

Thank you for your time and consideration