

Good morning Chairman Thompson and members of the committee,

My name is Samantha Calderon, I was raised in Kansas City, MO, and I am part of Advocates for Immigrant Rights and Reconciliation, which works in both States, Kansas and Missouri. I attended high school in Kansas City, MO, and decided to move to Kansas for university.

I firmly oppose SB254 and HB2373. This bill would repeal in-state tuition for all Kansas Immigrant Students. This bill is unamendable because of the complexity of immigration law. I oppose this bill because I watched my peers be discouraged from pursuing higher education in MO due to discriminatory policies that prevented them from getting in-state tuition from Universities in the state they went to middle school and high school simply because they weren't residents or citizens. Immigration law and statuses are complicated, and I say this because I don't know all the array of statuses there are. Some immigrants may be in a limbo status that doesn't grant them social security, work permits, or even an identification, although lawfully present, like asylum seekers. I sincerely urge you, as elected leaders, to get informed by an immigration lawyer about immigration law before devastating thousands of hopeful kids and generations who want to be productive and a light to this world.

I would like to use this opportunity to plant this seed for you respectfully: personally, does law equal morality for you?

I firmly oppose both mirror bills, SB 254 and HB 2373.

Thank you for your time.