

Logan Heley

PRIVATE CITIZEN

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SB 254

WRITTEN ONLY

Chair Thompson and esteemed Members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to present my views on SB 254 today. My name is Logan Heley, and I am a member of the Overland Park City Council, as well as a voter in Johnson County. I am here to advocate for the protection of educational opportunities for all residents of Kansas and respectfully urge the committee to vote against SB 254.

I am writing to express my opposition to SB 254. It is crucial to address the misconceptions surrounding this bill. The claim that undocumented students receive extensive public benefits is simply untrue. Current policy allows them to pay in-state tuition, but they do not receive state or federal grants, scholarships, or subsidized loans. Benefits like SNAP and Medicaid are inaccessible to them due to the requirement of a social security number. Legislators should base their decisions on accurate information and recognize the positive impact these students have on our state. Repealing in-state tuition would hinder educational attainment and harm our economy.

I respectfully oppose SB 254 due to serious concerns regarding its legal and ethical implications. The provision regarding a 'rebuttable presumption' of flight risk undermines the fundamental principle of 'innocent until proven guilty.' This automatic presumption effectively reverses this principle, leading to potentially unconstitutional outcomes. Undocumented individuals could face significantly higher bond amounts, resulting in detention due to an inability to pay, or even indefinite detention without bond. This is a direct contradiction of our justice system's core values. Additionally, I believe that repealing in-state tuition for undocumented students will harm the state of Kansas economically. I urge legislators to reconsider this bill.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my perspectives regarding this bill. I respectfully urge you to consider voting against the passage of SB 254 in order to safeguard educational opportunities for all residents of Kansas. Thank you.