

Judy Ancel

The Cross Border Network as President

2/19/2025

SB 254

Written only

Chair Thompson and Members of the Committee. I am both an educator, having taught at UMKC for almost three decades and the head of an organization that has twenty-five years investigated the roots of migration in Mexico and Central America. With that knowledge and with compassion for your youth challenged by the rising cost of higher education, I urge you to vote against SB254.

I urge you to go out and meet some of our young people with DACA or those too young to have benefitted from DACA since applications were terminated several years ago. I think if you talk to them about their hopes and interests in higher education, you will find it impossible to rescind the benefit of in-state tuition to them. It would be cruel to erase someone's hope for a future life, to get an education, a decent job and be able to have a family that isn't condemned to poverty just because their parents brought them here to grow up. To get rid of a program that has worked so well in educating smart youth who are working in healthcare, social service, are lawyers and business owners and benefitting Kansas. Why stop that by pricing education beyond their means?

As for the rest of this bill, immigration law is federal so why waste our tax dollars exercising a some kind of punishment on the most vulnerable? I remind you that someone accused of a crime is considered innocent until proven guilty but this bill wants to heap on the punishment immediately when someone is accused, keeping them locked up so they lose their job and their kids go hungry. This is wrong-headed.

Please vote "NO" on SB 254!