

Michael Rebne

Private Citizen

2/25/2025

SB 254

Written

Chair Thompson and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 254 with you today. My name is Michael Rebne and I am a voter in Johnson County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to protect educational opportunities for all Kansans and vote no on SB 254.

I oppose this bill because I understand how important immigrants are to our community. I have neighbors and friends who are very worried about the small business they own. The presumption of guilt included in this bill, could be used to unfairly target their employees. Because of the climate this is creating, they are reconsidering their desire to expand their very popular business, which harms them, their customers, staff, and the economy. I also am very worried for my students and their futures. I have students whose families have little resources as they try to build successful lives here. Their children often would be first generation college students. It seems to me, this is something the rest of us should be supporting and celebrating. We want kids to learn and grow as leaders so that they can in turn invest their skills in building better communities. In this case, we don't even invest that much in them unfortunately. We only offer them regular in state tuition. Their college success is a huge return on investment for our economy. We should not discourage their ambition in any way, but SB 254 would do just that.

Thank you for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill. Once again, I encourage you all to vote not on the passage of SB 254 to protect educational opportunities for all Kansans.