

Isidro Marino

PRIVATE CITIZEN

2/25/2025

SB 254

WRITTEN ONLY

Chairman 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 Isidro Marino and I am a voter in Finney County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to protect educational opportunities for all Kansans and vote no on SB 254."

I'm writing to strongly oppose SB 254 because it unfairly targets undocumented immigrants by stripping them of in-state tuition and public benefits while also forcing unnecessary immigration status checks. This bill isn't just harmful to immigrant communities—it hurts Kansas as a whole, both economically and socially.

For many undocumented students, Kansas is the only home they've ever known. They've grown up here, gone to our schools, and worked hard to build a better future. Denying them in-state tuition only makes higher education even more out of reach, shutting doors on students who want to contribute to our state. Kansas already faces worker shortages in key industries, and making it harder for young people to get an education will only make that problem worse.

On top of that, SB 254 would force state and local agencies to verify immigration status before providing public benefits. This would create more red tape, discourage immigrant families from seeking the help they need, and increase fear in our communities. When people are afraid to access basic services, it leads to bigger problems down the road, like more strain on emergency services and public health systems.

The bill also assumes that undocumented individuals charged with a crime are automatically a flight risk, which opens the door to racial profiling and undermines basic principles of justice. The legal system should focus on fairness, not unfairly targeting people based on their immigration status.

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SB 254 doesn't make Kansas safer or stronger—it does the opposite. It isolates and punishes people who just want to work hard, get an education, and contribute to their communities. I urge you to oppose this bill and instead support policies that invest in people and strengthen our state.

Kansas thrives when we invest in people who want to work, study, and build better lives for themselves and their families. SB 254 does the opposite—it isolates, punishes, and drives away individuals who could otherwise contribute to the growth and prosperity of our state. I urge you to stand against this bill and instead support policies that foster education, opportunity, and community strength.