

Maria Ordaz

Private citizen

2/25/2025

SB 254

Written

I want to thank the Members of the Committee for taking time to hear my concerns. My name is Maria Ordaz and I am a resident, DACA student and tax payer 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 myself as a DACA recipient and current nursing student at Kansas City Kansas Community College have lived in Kansas for most of my life, contributing to the economy and community. By denying this access to affordable education, SB 254 would make it harder for me to pursue higher education, and contribute to the state's workforce. Blocking this bill helps ensure that DACA recipients can continue their education and career paths without unnecessary legal and financial barriers. Additionally, the bill's presumption that undocumented individuals are flight risks unfairly targets a vulnerable population and could lead to unnecessary detentions. Rather than fostering inclusivity and economic growth, SB 254 creates barriers that undermine Kansas' future.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my story and thoughts on this bill. I strongly urge you to vote no on SB 254 to protect educational opportunities for all Kansans. I appreciate your time and consideration.