

Yareli Ortiz

Private Citizen

2/25/2025

SB 254

Written only

Chair Thompson and Members of the Committee, thank you for giving me the time to share my thoughts on SB 254. My name is Yareli Ortiz, and I am a voter in Shawnee County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to protect education opportunities for all Kansans and to vote no on SB 254.

As a current student at the University of Kansas I oppose this bill because I believe that everyone should have access to a post-secondary education if they choose to do so and during my time at KU, I've come to understand how these undocumented students have become pillars of our college and local community. If this bill were to be passed many of our schools and local organizations and committees would lose vital members who keep our organizations afloat. Our community would be affected not only socially but also economically as KU would lose \$10,862 for every undocumented student that may be forced to drop out of school because of this bill. This means that if there were 100 undocumented at KU a total of \$1,086,200 would be lost. This bill would not only negatively affect us now but also in the future, as future workforce would be deprived of the skills that these students could offer in the future. These students, who are prohibited from receiving any public benefits or grants, help keep Kansas prosperous and beautiful.

I once again, thank you all for taking your time to hear my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SB 254 to protect educational opportunities of Kansas. Thank you.