

Emily, Lavery

Private citizen

2/25/2025

SB 254

Written only

Chair Thompson and members of the committee, thank you for remembering the voices of your constituents in this process. My name is Emily Lavery and I was a voter in Johnson County until recently. Though I have moved, I am a proud Kansas State alumni and am concerned about the strength of a university that does not have the space for everyone. I am writing today to encourage the committee to protect educational opportunities for all Kansans and vote no on SB 254.

The unintended consequences of this bill are that it would decrease the number of college educated Kansans. DACA recipients are still citizens of our great state who stay in the area to work and support an economy. DACA recipients are already no eligible for federal funding, in state tuition is often one of the only reasons these students can afford college. As a freshman, I was lucky enough to befriend a DACA recipient who lived in my dorms. She is the one who encouraged me to attend law school which is a benefit for my economy and my parents in Johnson County as I come back to visit them and spend money in the area. Money that I have because I am a lawyer. I primarily became a lawyer because of the encouragement of this friend. Had she not had the opportunity for in state tuition, our paths might never have crossed and I might not be a lawyer today.

Once again, thank you for listening to your constituents and the people who want Kansas to prosper. I urge you all to vote no to the passage of SB 254 to protect educational opportunities for all Kansans.