

Emmaline, Bohlander

Private citizen

2/25/2025

SB 254

Written inly

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 Emmaline Bohlander and I am a voter in Shawnee county. I am writing today to encourage the committee to protect educational opportunities for all Kansans and vote no on SB 254.

Many people form lifelong friendships during college, and I was fortunate to do the same. These friends stood beside me as we worked cashier gigs, danced the night away in aggieville, and long nights studying together. To know and love them has shaped who I am today. Today they are thriving in their work to support our community. These are the friends that provide community for me, so I can show up and serve my elementary students to my best ability. The friends I made were not only incredible individuals but also students who benefited from in-state tuition despite their immigration status. Like countless others, they pursued higher education to build a better future for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Changing this policy wouldn't just affect undocumented students—it would also impact their future friends, families, and the broader community. Education is a powerful force for growth, and removing in-state tuition for undocumented students in Kansas would create an unnecessary and unfair hurdle in their lives, limiting opportunities for all, and weakening the very communities that benefit from their success.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing 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 for all Kansans. Thank you.