

Kay Burtzloff

Private citizen

2/25/2025

SB 254

Written Only

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 Kay Burtzloff and I am a voter in Seward County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to protect educational opportunities for all Kansans and vote no on SB 254."

I served on the Seward County Community College Board of Trustees for four years and prior to that, I served as an adjunct speech instructor for almost 20 years. I had the privilege of working with hundreds of immigrant and DACA students, many of whom were the first in their family to attend college. I will tell you that they were some of my most dedicated and hard working students. Many of them juggled full-time jobs and families while also attending the community college. I have had former students as my nurses and my respiratory therapists when I have been in the local hospital. Our immigrant community, both documented and undocumented, are a vital part of our local economy and our workforce. I think making it harder and more expensive for this segment of our community is short sighted from a economic standpoint and needlessly cruel from a humanitarian viewpoint. These are individuals who are interested in improving their lives and the lives of their families which is the essence of the American dream. They aspire to be citizens and are setting themselves up to be an educated workforce. We should be encouraging them in their educational endeavors and not setting up roadblocks.

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."