

Rick Behrens

Grandview Park Presbyterian Church - Pastor

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SB 254

Written only

Dear Chair Thompson and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on SB 254 with you today. My name is Rick Behrens and I am a voter in Wyandotte County. Today I encourage the committee to protect educational opportunities for all Kansans and vote no on SB 254.

As a pastor in Kansas City, Kansas I have seen what it means to the community when educational access is shared by all. I have had the opportunity to witness the lives of hundreds of young people changed because of affordable access to education. These young people in our community are benefitting not only themselves, but our entire community as well as the state of Kansas. At a time when many young people are looking to other states for opportunities, as Kansans we have made it clear with in-state tuition that we both want and need them to stay, to start families, to fill our many unfilled jobs, to start businesses, and to be leaders who build up the community. These young people are not allowed to access any other state or federal benefits. In-state tuition is a driver that helps keep talented, intelligent, and motivated young people in Kansas. They need the help and encouragement and we need them. It is a wonderful thing when people come to our communities and want to stay. These are the contributors to our communities and economies that we all have been praying for. Now is not the time to go backwards. The other measures of this bill are both misleading, inaccurate, and unhelpful in building up our communities. SB 254 is bad for our young people, bad for our communities, and bad for the state of Kansas. Please vote no on SB 254

Thank you all for hearing my experience and thoughts on this bill, and I pray that you all will vote no on the passage of SB 254. We must protect educational opportunities for all Kansans. Thank you