

February 27, 2025

**SB254** – Opponent Testimony, written-only

Mayor Michael Poppa  
Private Citizen

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to SB254.

**SB254 seems to be redundant and unnecessary.** It is simply another bill introduced as a “solution” looking for a problem. While I submit this testimony as a private citizen, I have served the City of Roeland Park, KS as a city councilmember beginning in 2015, and as mayor since 2023. During that time in service to my community I have seen no evidence that undocumented residents are receiving extensive public resources, including local homeowner assistance grants. Any assertion otherwise does not seem to hold water as it is not supported by existing state statute.

**SB254 seeks to strip Kansans of their right to local governments of the people, by the people, and for the people.** The bill appears to be overly broad in scope and lacking definitions of key terms, including “local agency”, which leads to very real concerns of erosion of local control. Unfortunately, there seems to be a theme in the Kansas legislature of seeking to dilute the ability of local people to make local decisions that provide for the unique needs of each of the 625 cities in Kansas. The needs of Kansas cities are diverse and differ from rural to urban, east to west, and even from neighbor-to-neighbor.

**SB254 would be an unfunded mandate and likely resource burden.** In addition to the ill-defined scope and lack of clarity on key terms, there is no accompanying fiscal note. Legislation of this nature always comes at a financial cost. This unfunded mandate will require local governments to expend additional limited resources including possible increases to their payrolls. Those additional costs then become the financial responsibility of every hard-working resident in our local communities..

**In closing, SB254 is a “solution” looking for a problem.** SB254 erodes our Kansas constitutional freedom to make local decisions for our local communities, and instead mandates a one-size-fits-all approach. SB254 is an unfunded mandate that will likely be a strain on our local economies and the hard-working residents in our local communities.

**I respectfully urge you to reject SB254, and focus on passing legislation that provides solutions to actual problems, such as sustainable tax relief and protection – not division – for all Kansans.**

