

Mariel Ferreira

Sanctuary Alliance - Lawrence, KS (Co-Founder and Member)

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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 Mariel Ferreira with Sanctuary Alliance - Lawrence and I am a voter in Douglas County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to protect educational opportunities for all Kansans and vote no on SB 254.

As a constitution right it is imperative that we keep access to education for all Kansans regardless of their status. I have lived most of my life in southwestern Kansas in Dodge city in an immigrant family. Without access to instate tuition my father sister and many in my community would not have been able to take advantage of the educational opportunities available and would not be in the position they are today to care for the next generation as teachers and business owners. Utilizing our resources for all Kansans supports our local economy, grows and allows our cities to flourish and fosters opportunities that make our state a great place to stay and raise a family. Immigrants deserve that right just as much as anyone else in this state.

We must make careful and just decisions to continue to encourage the bright futures of all Kansans in this state...everyone. If we do not, I fear we will push people away from the state, devastate our local economies, and hinder future generations from thriving. You can prevent this from happening.

Thank you for hearing my testimony on this bill. Again, I encourage you to all to vote NO on the passage of SB 254 and protect educational opportunities for all Kansans. Thank you.

Mariel Ferreira

Sanctuary Alliance

Lawrence, KS