



**February 15, 2012**  
**Committee on Federal and State Affairs Testimony**  
**LULAC OPPOSES HB 2492, HB 2576, HB 2577, 2578**

Mr. Chair and honorable members of the committee, my name is Elias L. Garcia and I am the State Director of the Kansas League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is the oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization in the United States and its mission is to advance the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health and civil rights of Hispanic Americans through community-based programs operating at more than 1000 councils nationwide.

Mr. Chair, in other testimony provided by LULAC, we have stated that we support Kansas economic development and Kansas businesses in their efforts for growth and development. **HB 2492, HB2576, HB2577 are contrary to these goals and for this reason (among others), LULAC adamantly opposes these legislative proposals.**

E-Verify is a program that has been in place at the federal level for many years and LULAC believes that the implementation and oversight of this highly unreliable program should remain within the purview of our federal government, not with Kansas' business community.

In respect to the Public Benefits/Harboring bill, this can be viewed as a potential gateway to open and unchecked persecution that targets racial or ethnic minorities. Alabama is an example of how these types of local initiatives can easily get out of hand and risk the loss of federal funding. In correspondence to Alabama, Asst. Atty General Tom Perez wrote to Alabama law enforcement agencies, "As a recipient of federal financial assistance, your agency is required to comply with various non-discrimination requirements under federal statutes and regulations, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968," Perez said in the letter. "The federal government may, in some circumstances, terminate federal funds or bring a civil lawsuit in federal court seeking affirmative relief to enforce Title VI, the Safe Streets Act, and their implementing regulations. As you undertake law enforcement activity under H.B. 56, it is critical that your enforcement of this law does not result in the unlawful stopping, questioning, searching, detaining, or arresting of persons in violation of the Fourth and Fifth Amendments, or in the targeting of racial or ethnic minorities in a manner that violates the Fourteenth Amendment

LULAC does understand that something has to be done to fix our immigration system. However piece-mill approaches to our immigration problem only make our situation worse, not better. The E-verify and Harboring bills currently before you are an example of piece-mill solutions that places a tremendous hardship and undue burden on both businesses and our local law enforcement agencies.

In closing, LULAC strongly urges your **OPPOSITION** to HB 2492, 2576, 2577, 2578 as these bills hold no practical value and ultimate promotion of economic development, business, and well

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