



House Federal and State Affairs
Elias Garcia, State Director, League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

RE: Opposition to HB 2192
March 20, 2013

Thank You Chairman Siegfried and members of the committee for this opportunity to share our position as you deliberate on HB 2192.

My name is Elias L. Garcia, I am the State Director of the Kansas League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). LULAC is the oldest civil rights organization in the country and represents over 1000 councils throughout the United States, including five in Kansas.

Members of the committee, on behalf of LULAC we would like to go on record as opposing HB 2192. HB 2192 is an AN ACT concerning public postsecondary education; concerning residents for purposes of tuition and other fees; amending K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 76-729 and repealing the existing section; also repealing K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 76-731a

While this bill seemingly looks like a well intentioned piece of legislation designed to support military personnel and their families, upon closer inspection of HB 2192 we find that within the layers of this bill's definitions lies a poison. A toxic and lethal poison in the form of verbiage that was intentionally and strategically inserted in HB 2192 that would, yet again, target Immigrant Students by excluding this population from eligibility criteria as defined by HB 2192 under "domiciliary residents" which are eligible to pay resident fees at the state educational institutions under the control and supervision of the Kansas State Board of Regents. Clearly a strategy and an attempt to eliminate their eligibility to attend Kansas colleges and universities at in-state rates.

Why do we continue to rehash 7 year old legislative issues like the Student Immigrant Tuition Bill that were introduced and debated in the Kansas legislatures in 2004 and were embraced and passed by majorities both houses and signed into law in 2004 LULAC's message to the honorable members of this committee continues to stress that national comprehensive immigration reform is no longer a matter of IF, but WHEN. Why do we continue be about the business of debating the same old anti-immigrant initiatives that in a few months will be MOOT! Its time to move on.

Using these legislative tactics and for reasons known only to them and those they serve, individuals within your midst have unabashedly stated that they view Latinos and Latino immigrants as feral hogs and deserving of eradication while still others utilize a more palatable legislative Trojan horse tactic i.e. HB 2192 to target the Latino community and ultimately promote Latino societal exclusion, segregation, , and second-class citizenship.

We must move on from legislative initiatives based on an approach of seeking exclusion and punishment towards immigrants, to one of affording us the dignity and respect we deserve as full productive members of this society.

LULAC continues to urge members of this committee and indeed all members of the Kansas Legislature to avoid pursuing any state driven immigration initiatives and allow our federal government to take the lead in implementing national immigration reform and thus positively changing the lives and future for all Latinos an all our fellow Americans.

Thank you..