

Dear Committee on State and Federal Affairs,

My name is Oscar Gutierrez. I am from Kansas City Kansas, and I am an undocumented student at Johnson County Community College. I am here today to speak out against House bill 2192.

When I was five years old my parents brought my two-month-old sister and I to the United states, from Mexico in search of a better life and above all an education for their children. I quickly adapted to American culture, and soon Mexico was but a distant memory in my mind. I attended kindergarten, grade school, and middle school in Kansas City, and graduated from Bishop Miege high school in 2009 making me the first person in my family to graduate from high school.

I attended KU in the fall of 2009, but due to issues with money I decided to transfer to Johnson County Community college. If it weren't for in state tuition I would not be able to peruse my dream of being the first person from my family to graduate from a university.

I am also standing here today because my sister has just finished her first year of college, and my little cousin will be beginning her freshman year at Bishop Miege in the fall. My cousin, who is also undocumented, always tells me that she wants to go to college and be like me. I do not want to see her dreams crushed under a bill that would inhibit her family's ability to pay for an education. Also, with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals I will be able to work in my chosen field of study, which is anthropology. I have always wanted to work with a non-for-profit, and dedicate my life to helping others. Other students will be able to work in engineering, nursing, and many other fields that will help the economy of Kansas grow.

Denying young people the opportunity to better themselves and their communities is not the American way. It never has and never will be. I am here to ask you to help us accomplish our dreams, in doing so you will be helping the state of Kansas. Students who want a better future are not the problem we are part of the solution to the difficulties this nation faces.

Since 2004 the state of Kansas has allowed undocumented students to pay instate tuition if they meet the following criteria it is a rate that is not subsidized by Kansas taxpayers and has actually created revenue for our schools. We are not

eligible for federal aid meaning we pay out of pocket. That is why I ask you to stand with us against HB2192.

Say yes to instate tuition, say yes to growing our economy, say yes to education!

Thank you,

Oscar Gutierrez