

**House Federal and State Affairs Committee
Written Testimony in Opposition to HB 2192
March 20, 2013
Sister Therese Bangert
Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth**

Chairman Siegfried and members of the Committee,

I'm Sister Therese Bangert, the Social Justice Advocate of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. Our Community today joins the voices of all those who are asking this committee to reject HB 2192.

As women of the Church and of the Gospel we've been part of educating Kansas children since 1958. Our Constitution, which sets a framework for our lives, states that the very spirit of our founding Sisters was born within the immigrant and pioneer spirit of the late 1850's. So being concerned for educating immigrants has been part of our service for 155 years.

Following are three quotes in favor of instate tuition from Catholic Sisters in Kansas:

Garden City, KS - We will never be able to attract enough medical professionals, law enforcement officers or educators to southwest Kansas. These immigrant students have grown up here and know only this area. Their culture prizes family values and togetherness. Please allow them to pursue higher education that we may profit from their services to all of us. Then our three or more years of educating them in grade/high school will pay us back abundantly for all their professional life!

Atchison, KS. – We need these young people educated to be the teachers and medical people that the next generation of kids will see as role models.

Leavenworth, KS. – Please retain the Kansas law that permits instate tuition for undocumented students. We need these bright young people to help move this country forward; it would be counter-productive for Kansas to move backwards, especially as federal legislators are beginning to work in a positive way on immigration reform measures.

The Instate Tuition Policy in Kansas is “good for the children” and us.

Thank You for hearing us. Peace be with YOU!