

2/21/15

Ana B Jimenez
219 S 10th Street
Kansas City, KS 66102

Student at Fort Hays State University

RE: Opposition to HB2139

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to express my concerns about the recent proposition of no longer offering in-state tuition to undocumented students in the great state of Kansas. I have been living in the state of Kansas for nearly 12 years. I am the oldest of three sisters, and we are all college students. My parents made the decision of coming to live to the United States of America in hopes for a better future. My parents have always believed that education is the way to success and have always encourage my sisters and I to attend college.

It was not until I was attending high school that I realized what it really meant to be an undocumented immigrant living in the United States. *It was then when I realized that in order to obtain my education, I was going to work ten times harder than my fellow classmates. I realized that I was not eligible for any federal assistance and knew that my parents did not have the financial stability to help me pay for a university. I was not going to let that stop me from reaching my goals.*

At the age of 17, I started working and saving all of my income. I also applied to various scholarships and spoke to my teachers on other available options for me. Luckily, I received a scholarship that covered my first two years in a community college. I paid for all other expenses with my savings. Throughout my journey, I have met incredible people that have guided and assisted me, including teachers and community members.

Today, I have received an Associates degree from a local community college and I will be graduating from Fort Hays State University with a BA in Sociology in May 2016. I am an involved member of the community and I am always looking for ways to help others. I have grown to love the state of Kansas as if it were my own hometown. I am deeply grateful for all of the opportunities that have been provided to me and I am certain that I would not be where I am today if it were not for my

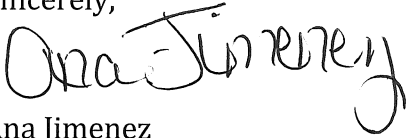
education. There is no doubt in my mind that without the privilege of in-state tuition, my journey would not have the same ending.

I am sure my story sounds all too familiar, but it is the hard reality that many students like myself live. I ask that you please take into consideration the struggles that undocumented students have to experience in order to obtain an education. It is something that many take for granted, but for us, it is very important and we believe that we deserve that opportunity.

I am only asking you for an opportunity to success.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ana Jimenez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Ana Jimenez

February 21, 2015

Sofia Jimenez-Omana
219 S 10th Street
Kansas City, KS 66102

RE: My future and dreams – Opposition to HB2139

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to persuade you not to change in state tuition rates for illegal immigrants in the state of Kansas. I ask that you not change these rates because as an illegal immigrant that arrived to this country at a very young age, I share the dreams of many teens my age. Those dreams are to attend college and become someone in life. As you know, college tuition is already hard to pay for; having out of state tuition would add about \$12,684 to my debt per year.

Growing up I always aspired to pursue a career in the medical field, I never really though about how much it would cost me to get there. It wasn't until I got to high school that I noticed that I had a disadvantage. My disadvantage was not the lack of persistence, determination or let alone grades. My disadvantage was the lack of a legal status. At times it gets very difficult because I had to work twice as hard as my peer to receive the same opportunities. *Graduating top 10 in my class and having 38 college credits meant nothing to some scholarship committees if I didn't have a legal status.* Luckily, President Obama's Executive Action in 2012 allowed me to get a job legally and begin earning money to save to be able to pay for some of my college expenses.

If it wasn't for Organizations like the Hispanic Scholarship Fund and the Hispanic Development Fund in Kansas City, it would be impossible for me to attend college. Those organizations helped me BUT in-state tuition allowed me to attend college. I ask that you please reconsider your preposition to change tuition rates for illegal immigrants.

I ask that you please keep in mind our struggles and obstacles when making decisions like this.

Respectfully,


Sofia Jimenez-Omana