

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,

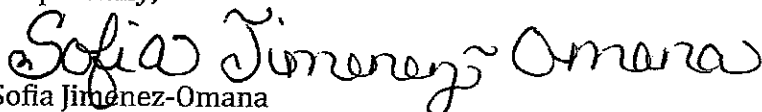
I am writing this letter to persuade you not to change in state tuition rates for illegal immigrants in the state of Kansas. I ask that you not change these rates because as an illegal immigrant that arrived to this country at a very young age, I share the dreams of many teens my age. Those dreams are 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 thought 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