

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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BRETT HILDABRAND
17TH DISTRICT

Chairman Barker and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today in favor of legislation prohibiting sanctuary municipalities in the state of Kansas. Sanctuary municipalities are units of government that instruct employees not to cooperate with federal authorities in enforcing immigration laws. These local laws and policies are enacted in direct conflict with federal immigration laws.

Last year, sanctuary municipalities received national media attention through the tragic death of Kathryn Steinle in San Francisco. Ms. Steinle was murdered by Francisco Sanchez, an illegal alien with a felony conviction and five previous deportations. Four months earlier, Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents asked local law enforcement to detain Sanchez until they could take custody, but instead, Sanchez was released at the instruction of the DA citing the city's sanctuary policy.

In researching sanctuary policies around the country, I found that there are six counties in Kansas that are identified as having sanctuary policies. Those counties are:

- Butler
- Finney
- Harvey
- Johnson
- Sedgwick
- Shawnee

One of the fundamental roles of government is helping to ensure the safety and security of the public. By intentionally refusing to cooperate with federal authorities in bringing dangerous individuals to justice, sanctuary municipalities have put their residents at risk. The state of Kansas has the moral obligation to intervene on behalf of those residents and prohibit dangerous sanctuary policies.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Brett Hildabrand