



COUNTY OF LEAVENWORTH BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

300 Walnut
Leavenworth, Kansas 66048-2815
(913) 684-0417
Facsimile (913) 680-2742
email: bocc@leavenworthcounty.org
House Judiciary Committee
Testimony HB2587 and HB2466

February 3, 2016

Eight years ago, I testified before this committee because on Valentine's Day, 2007, my 19 year old daughter, Amanda Bixby was driving home from work and was hit and killed by an illegal alien. Ricardo Flores, resident alien, had lived in this county for 4 years. He was eluding law enforcement getting around a sobriety checkpoint at the time of the accident. Amanda's Law HB2617 was passed overwhelmingly in 2008.

We are here today because the federal government has been unable or unwilling to do their job of protecting our boundaries. Some cities have declared rights not outlined in the Constitution. The fact is Kansas really doesn't know who these people are. Leaders in Washington say that you cannot deport 15 million illegal aliens because you will break up families. I am living proof that breaking up families is already happening.

When cities attempt to ignore federal and state laws, they impose a tax on all of the citizens of Kansas. Schools get taxed by having to hire more teachers with bilingual skills. Social services get taxed by having to pay more benefits, law enforcement, courts and our prisons get taxed. Wages get held down and people remain under employed. Unemployment is low only because many citizens have left the workplace. Jobs that exist are not at wage levels we once enjoyed.

I am not convinced that our State is serious about cutting spending as long as we offer in state tuition to non-citizens. The fact is, I cannot flee to any other country and secure sanctuary without proper documentation. If you tax something you get less of it. If you subsidized a behavior you get more of it. Unless you pass the strongest possible bill to prevent sanctuary cities, you will need to budget more and more precious time and resources to deal with this rapidly growing problem.

Today, you sit at a crossroad. As an elected public servant you can continue down the pathway of lawlessness and irrelevancy or you can vote to protect Kansas, grow our economy, improve productivity and reduce State spending.

Dennis J. Bixby, Commissioner