

TESTIMONY OF BENET MAGNUSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
KANSAS APPLESEED CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE
BEFORE THE KANSAS HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE



IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 2466

JANUARY 21, 2016

My name is Benet Magnuson; I am the Executive Director of the Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that partners with communities across the state to find workable solutions for the problems facing low-income families.

Kansas Appleseed opposes House Bill 2466 because it is both unnecessary and unworkable.

The bill is unnecessary because no city or county in Kansas has any policy in effect that limits law enforcement's powers to enforce immigration laws or to gather and share information regarding immigration status.

The bill is unworkable because it risks imposing an unfunded mandate on Kansas communities that could be forced by the legislation to spend significant local tax dollars to enforce federal immigration laws, which is the responsibility of the federal government. The bill also ties the hands of communities in governing themselves as they seek to resolve unique local problems.

Many federal courts have found local governments fiscally liable when they incorrectly enforce immigration laws, meaning House Bill 2466 may be opening Kansas communities up to costly waves of litigation.

House Bill 2466 is a solution in search of a problem that does not exist in Kansas, and in the process, the bill imposes an unfunded mandate on Kansas communities, hampers their ability to govern themselves, and opens them up to costly litigation. I urge you to vote against House Bill 2466.

Respectfully submitted,

Benet Magnuson
Executive Director
Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice