

Written Testimony for Public Hearing  
Senate Committee for Federal and State Affairs  
February 14, 2017

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My name is Katie Chiaverini and I am a public school teacher and resident of Johnson County, Kansas. I urge you to vote against both SB 157 - Kansas highway patrol, immigration agreement and SB 158 - Prohibiting adoption of sanctuary policies by cities, counties, and state agencies.

These bills are neither pro-family nor pro-child. They will instill fear in many families and children that we service in our schools. Our families will be scared to come to the police for help if they fear deportation due to their status as citizens. More than anything, this will directly impact the children of our school, our community, our district, and our city. We want our children to feel safe. We want them to know that the police are here to help them and keep them safe. We want them to trust the police just as they do their teachers. We don't want them to see police as people who might take their parents away or take them away. Passing either of these bills will directly impact the trust that the community has built over the past years with immigrant families, with or without correct legal papers. We will be moving a step backwards.

I work directly with children who have just arrived in the country. We call them our "Newcomers". These newcomers and their families are often very scared at first and we work hard to make them feel welcome in our school and our community. Every one of these children has a name and a family. Most have experienced incredibly long, hard, and often traumatic journeys to arrive on United States soil. They come here because their parents had a dream of a better life for them. They wanted to have enough food in their bellies and to get a good education to have a better life. Most of all, their parents wanted them to be safe. These amazingly hard-working students want to learn English, they want to make friends, and they love their teachers, their school and their families. In my first-hand experience, I know these recent immigrants to be some of the most resilient and hardworking people around with values that embody the "American Way". These children and their families are the backbone of our country, which was created by large waves of immigrants over time, and they deserve to be safe. Allow our public officers to do their job of keeping people safe and keep them out of immigration duties of the federal government by voting no to SB 157 and SB 158.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Katie Chiaverini

Fed and State Committee  
Date 2-15-2017  
Attachment # 41