

I would like to express my support of HB2717. As a retired law enforcement officer with over 30 years of service I understand the necessity of law enforcement agencies to be able to work together. Sanctuary City ordinances are by design prohibit such cooperation and exchange of resources. Sanctuary City ordinances tie the hands of law enforcement, put communities and citizens at risk, and create a false sense of security for those they are purporting to help. The Ordinance labeled "Safe and Welcoming" is the classic example of bad legislation that is meant to circumvent the law. Not only does it prohibit local law enforcement from enforcing some laws, it requires them to accept a municipal Identification card that is issued by a third party private "administrator" / contractor. There is no legitimate verification of the persons real identity, or even a simple computer check to see if the person has warrants or on any subversive watch lists. The reason for a third party administrator being stated by the legal advisor during testimony on the ordinance is to circumvent the law to keep the identities secret. A private contractor being used specifically to prevent ICE or others from being able to use FOIA to obtain information on a persons identity or documents used to establish said identity. As an officer, I realize the importance of a person having an identity card, but it must be legitimate, verifiable, and accurate, otherwise it is a huge obstacle. As we have a growing problem of identity theft, even the drivers license bureau has had to result in citizens providing extensive proof of who they are. The use of Municipal I.D. cards to provide safe harbor for those that may be in the Country in violation of the law only further victimizes those seeking the ability to legally work and contribute to society. A "municipal" I.D. means only that, it is only valid in a narrowly specific area, and for only department or agencies that are forced to adhere to municipal ordinances. It only serves to further victimize those seeking to be here and live and work legally. They are given a false sense of security with a card that is very limited and they may not understand such limitations. It also ties or restricts them to a geographical sanctuary area, and a questionable I.D. that if produced in other jurisdictions might very well be a red flag to law enforcement.

Like most people, I support common sense immigration reform. We should have laws that allow those wanting to come and work here to do so, without waiting years, and spending thousands of dollars. Sanctuary city laws only serve to delay real reforms. Every Sanctuary City seems to have a referral staff of "immigration attorneys" that capitalize by helping to circumvent laws and local ordinances often referred by tax payer subsidized advocacy organizations.

These Sanctuary City ordinances are a solution to a problem that doesn't exist. Most local law enforcement agencies by policy do not enforce stand alone immigration laws. Specifically KCKPD has not enforced stand alone immigration laws for decades. During testimony even the Chief of Police testified that he could not find one instance where the KCKPD had made an arrest based on a persons immigration status alone. As an officer that saved on KCKPD since 1975, I have never made an arrest for an immigration law violation.

It is for the state reasons I support HB 2717 and hope we can ensure Kansas has legitimate identities for our citizens, and our law enforcement agencies have trust and credibility among other agencies to provide protection for our citizens.

Thank you for any considerations,
Duane Beth
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