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KELLIE WARREN
11TH DISTRICT

PROPONENT WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2717

Chairman Barker and Members of the Committee,

The preamble to the United States Constitution states, "We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

If we are to "secure the blessings of liberty" and "establish justice", as the Constitution says, it is important that the law is being upheld throughout our state. However, from time to time, local units of government, for ideological or other reasons, may attempt to enact ordinances or take action that undermines the rule of law and threatens our liberty.

Recently, that is what the Unified Government in Wyandotte County attempted to do when it passed an ordinance to make itself a sanctuary city and design its own voter ID scheme.

If we are serious about protecting our liberty, we must allow law enforcement agencies the power to secure our borders; we also must ensure voters have trust in our state ID system. Therefore, as *lawmakers*, it is our duty to craft legislation that makes it absolutely clear that schemes like Wyandotte County adopted are not acceptable. While it may seem appalling to the average citizen that such legislation is even necessary, that is nonetheless why it is so important to pass HB 2717.

It's important to note that this is NOT an issue of allowing local control. The 10th Amendment says, "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States, respectively, or to the people." Local control is important in areas like schools, local speed limits, and where to place a new park.

However, the power to secure our borders is a federal power, and the power to issue identification, such as driver's licenses, is traditionally a state power. If you combine our

counties and our cities in Kansas, that's over 700 jurisdictions, it would make the rule of law a farce if we enabled every city or every county to essentially become "city-states" and be able to adopt its own immigration and voter ID policies. The prima facie evidence clearly indicates that going down this road would be chaotic both for law enforcement and also the public at large.

This is why I so strongly support HB 2717. If passed and signed into the law, the people of Kansas would know that within our borders, we are not going to have local units of government refusing to cooperate with law enforcement while also making it clear a municipally created ID card would not be sufficient to comply with areas of law, like our voting laws, which require identification.

Thank you for your time, and I encourage you to pass this legislation.