

Sheriff Jeff Easter, Proponent, Speaking
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**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs
In Support of HB2717
March 29, 2022**

Chairman Olson and Committee Members:

Our associations recognize the importance of a trusting relationship with all segments of the communities our members serve. No where is that more important than for victims and witnesses of crime to come forward with information to support investigations and prosecute those responsible for crimes. We also recognize that many of our immigrant communities are victimized by members of those same communities, and we hear from those communities their desire to hold those criminals accountable. This creates the need for balancing how we deal with immigration issues within those communities. We further recognize that while the majority of immigrants in our communities are not engaged in state criminal acts, the smaller numbers within those communities victimizing others create problems for the entire immigrant communities. As a result, we believe there must be a balance that allows us to utilize federal enforcement tools and resources against those that are victimizing others in our communities. Our support of HB2717 is based on the need to engage and cooperate with federal enforcement action against those who are harming others in our communities, including immigrant communities.

HB2717 would prohibit municipalities from placing law enforcement in a catch-22 position between violating local ordinance or concealing unlawful acts under federal law thereby obstructing federal investigations. We must be able to freely exchange information with federal authorities especially when the person violating federal law is victimizing members of our communities.

We did have concerns with the original bill which were addressed in amendments contained in the bill as passed by the Senate.

We urge you to accept the amendments as outlined above as recommended by the Attorney General and to move the bill forward favorably.

Sheriff Jeff Easter, Sedgwick County
KSA Legislative Committee Chair