

Good Morning Senators!

I am Janie Welsh, a Real Estate Broker from Sublette, KS. Sublette for those of you who are unfamiliar is nestled between Liberal, Wizard of OZ & Dorothy, Dodge City, Miss Kitty & Wyatt Earp, & Garden City, Home of the Beef Empire Days.

We don't have any Mountains for skiing, Rivers or even Lakes for fishing. There are no Big In-Door Malls. No Stop Light or Stop Sign on every corner. Some of our streets are still brick or gravel. In fact, we don't even have a Olive Garden or Red Lobster.

What we do possess & are proud to claim are our Feedlots, Farms, Dairies, Grain Elevators, Mom & Pop Shops whose families run the Dry Cleaning, Trucking, Heating & Air Condition Businesses.

What else we have in SW KS are people who came here years ago with a Visa in one hand and a Dream in the other. Their Visa expired, but their Dream did not! Some of them are still waiting since 911 to get their papers renewed. Others just didn't know how or where to go to get them renewed. A handful of them put their trust in Attorneys or a person who promised them, for 5 to \$10,000, a Workman's Authorization Card. You guess it! There were never any cards. There was nothing! They had no recourse to get their money back and these people knew it. I'm sure as we speak, this is still going on, but SB399 would put a stop to this scam!

These same Immigrants have raised families in our small communities, became Church members purchased homes, YES, purchased homes. Believe it or not, they have not had their homes foreclosed on, because they have jobs. Jobs that are difficult to fill.

Partly, because the area is so desolate compared to other parts of our state. For us to have a population of 15,000 people, it would just be compared to just one of your school districts or suburbs in the city of Wichita, Overland Park or even here in Topeka.

It's ½ the people of Garden City, Dodge City or Liberal. You would need to put the population of 6 or 7 Counties together to achieve 15,000 people. SW KS. is alive now because of our immigrate population.

Think about Chicago, New York City or even closer to home, Kansas City, MO. If they didn't have aliens, who'd drive you in the taxi cabs around town, or change the sheets in your hotel room. In fact, the State Card that allows all of you to get ½ price rooms in hotels, all over, would sky rocket, if they couldn't fill those positions. But, I'm not worried about those places. I'm worried about our small communities and what will happen to our work force in SW KS if these people can't get work permits allowing them to drive. Drive to work, drive to school, drive to Church.

Would some of YOU send your Kids or Grandkids to SW KS? to work in our Feedlots, scoop bunks, ride horses & check pens or drive a tractor or grain truck. Work in a Dairy & operate a milking machine or even start up a business in one of our small towns. Would YOU?

Just think for a moment, if you will. If the people start to leave & they already have, what will happen to our school system, our small downtown, in turn, what will happen to our community?

These people pay taxes. They don't rely on Medicaid, because they have jobs. Jobs with Insurance Benefits. Our Employers know

the value of a good employee. I trust that you, good Senators, also know.

These people, known to you as aliens, don't have 2 heads. They are non-violent, hard working individuals who are willing to meet all the requirements necessary to stay in our Great State & work. Help support not only are community, but our State. They buy our kids & Grandkids Girls Scout cookies & Boy Scout Popcorn. They starch the shirts we wear, help produce & transport the steak, pork chop or hamburger that we may eat tonight. Even the whipped cream that's on our pie, the corn on the cob we enjoy in the summer & they fix our A/C or Furnace when they break down. These people & their families go to our schools & sit next to us at our ballgames.

Please help us, your Neighbors to the Southwest, by voting YES to SB399. The bill is Not, repeat, Not asking for amnesty, but it would allow us to keep jobs filled in our Small Towns that your Kids or Grandkids won't fill. Jobs, they won't take! You'd allow us to keep our Communities alive in small towns where You, your Kids & Grandkids like to visit, by won't live!

Please Vote SB399. At least give us a chance. That's all we ask! It'd be one of the Best Decision by Voting Yes that you'll ever make! You won't be sorry! TRUST ME!