

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Brungardt at 10:30 a.m. on February 27, 2008 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Melissa Doeblin, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Connie Burns, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Peggy Palmer  
Prof Kris Kobach  
Texas State Representative Debbie Riddle  
Dennis Bixby  
Anna Myers  
William Gudde, Gudde Farms, Inc  
Michael Ross  
Barb Nichols, Kansas for Immigration Reform Effort  
Craig Barbee, Kansas for Immigration Reform Effort  
Ed Hayes, Minute Man Civil Defense Corp  
Paul Degener, Citizens for Immigration Reform  
Greg Dye  
Randy Ford  
Paul Porubsky  
Ralph Snyder, American Legion  
Jack Shandy

Others attending:

See attached list.

**Bill Introduction:**

Senator Vratil requested a bill introduction that increased compensation for state wide elected officials.

Senator Vratil moved that this request should be introduced as a committee bill. Senator Lynn seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**SB 458- Immigration reform**

Chairman Brungardt opened the hearing on **SB 458**

Senator Peggy Palmer spoke in favor of the bill. (Attachment 1) The bill will prevent Kansas from becoming a sanctuary state by removing the incentives that attract illegal immigrants, equipping businesses with effective verification tools like the E-Verify System, and empowering our state and local law enforcement agencies with the authority needed to deal efficiently and fairly with illegal immigration situations.

Professor Kris Kobach appeared in favor of the bill. (Attachment 2) The bill is necessary to ensure that Kansas complies with federal law prohibiting states from providing public benefits to illegal aliens, making it more difficult to work illegally in Kansas and removing incentives for illegal aliens to remain in Kansas in violation of federal law.

State Representative Debbie Riddle, Texas, states that Texas educates illegal aliens through in-state tuition at state universities and that thousands cross illegally with intentions other than working. Drug cartels find Texas a good point of entry to get drugs to kids throughout Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas. (Attachment 3)

Dennis Bixby appeared in favor of the bill. (Attachment 4) The bill has the potential to level the playing field

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and bring Kansas up to the same or better status as our four neighboring states with regard to immigration reform. Mr. Bixby lost his daughter when an illegal alien from Mexico ran a stop sign while eluding a sobriety check point.

Anna Myers spoke in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 5](#)) Other states have taken common-sense measures to provide accountability of illegal aliens, and with proper steps the problem of illegal immigration is solvable.

William Gudde, President, Gudde Farms, Inc., appeared in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 6](#)) Uneducated bare hands are not worth the saving in using undocumented workers against the new technology of manufacturing and operation of farm machinery. Relying on bare hands will only hinder technology assimilation, putting America behind in productivity and efficiency in the world market.

Michael Ross spoke in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 7](#)) To insure that the federal immigration laws be upheld in the state, Kansas needs to pass this bill.

Barb Nichols, Kansas for Immigration Reform Effort, (KIRE) appeared in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 8](#)) KIRE wants to emphasize that it is not against legal immigrants who have come to Kansas through legal channels and have worked hard to become productive citizens, but there are huge numbers of illegal aliens sneaking across the borders bringing with them all manners of disease into our state.

Craig Barbee, Kansas for Immigration Reform Effort, spoke in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 9](#)) The bill would establish a clear and easy policy for illegal immigration that has a real penalty for those that violate the law and provide for the enforcement of the law in Kansas.

Ed Hayes, Minute Man Civil Defense Corp, appeared in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 10](#)) Mr. Hayes urged the committee to pass this bill because the Federal Government will not uphold the rule of law and the oath of office under Article IV, Section 4 of the United States Constitution.

Paul Degener, Citizens for Immigration Reform, spoke in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 11](#)) The bill is supported because it is comprehensive in its coverage of the illegal alien dilemma facing our state; makes it unlawful to hire illegal aliens, requires employers to register and utilize the e-verify system, and allows law enforcement officers to inquire into the citizenship status upon violation of law.

Greg Dye, Kansas for Immigration Reform Effort, spoke in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 12](#)) All illegal aliens in the US must be removed in order to be in compliance with our federal laws; the bill is way overdue and must be passed.

Randy Ford, Kansas for Immigration Reform Effort, spoke in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 13](#)) Mr. Ford states that illegal immigrants in the Dodge City area are the reason for most of the crime, and Dodge City will be building a new jail just to house the illegal offenders; his business as a bails bondman went under due to "Failures to Appear."

Paul Porubsky, Kansas for Immigration Reform Effort, spoke in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 14](#)) Provided crime victims information, chart and stats from Numbers USA, and Union News. (Located in Kansas Legislative Research Department)

Ralph Snyder, American Legion, spoke in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 15](#)) Kansas is in violation of federal law and is the reason the American Legion supports the bill.

Jack Shandy, Kansas for Immigration Reform Effort, spoke in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 16](#)) Mr. Shandy states that anyone that is an illegal alien should not be allowed to own a home, automobile, business, have a job, to use social services, or be allowed education benefits.

Richard Fatherley provided written testimony in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 17](#))

Rick Babinger, American Legion, provided written testimony in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 18](#))

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Jim Snyder provided written testimony in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 19](#))

Dr. Curtis L. McCauley, Kansas for Immigration Reform Effort, provided written testimony in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 20](#))

Jessica Vaughan, Center for Immigration Studies, provided written testimony in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 21](#))

Roy Beck, Numbers USA, provided written testimony in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 22](#))

Rhonda Johnson provided written testimony in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 23](#))

Amanda Bien provided written testimony in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 24](#))

Homer G. Taggart provided written testimony in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 25](#))

Chairman Brungardt closed the hearing on **SB 458**.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm. The next scheduled meeting is March 4, 2008.