

To: Our Kansas Legislators

Re: Possible Repeal of Instate Tuition for Immigrant Students

From: Sister Janice Thome 1002 Gillespie, Garden City, KS 67846

Date: March 17, 2013

I urge you to vote against HB2192, the bill to repeal the instate tuition law.

I live in a part of that state that is very rural. Here in southwest Kansas we will never be able to attract and retain enough professionals: medical, education or law enforcement. The young citizens who live here go off to college and most find careers in other parts of our state or in other parts of the US. For example: each school year starts with substitute teachers because we lack 10-20 credentialed teachers. This is despite recruiting from as far away as Michigan and Spain!

The children of immigrants who are using instate tuition to go to college are bright and motivated young people. They want to become professionals. They will come back to Garden City or wherever their families are living because they come from family oriented cultures. Also the ones I know want to give back to the community that has helped them to get to this point in their lives.

Our school districts have given them 3 or more years of education. I urge you to let them have the instate tuition so they may be able to afford to get the few more years necessary to "pay back" this education by careers that will serve our needs for many years to come.

Contacting our Superintendent, Dr. Atha or the CEO of St. Catherine Hospital will provide you with the hard data on the need we have for these students to complete their education.

Thank you for considering the common good of our rural population, US citizen, residents, refugees and immigrants.