

Dear Chairman LaTurner and Kansas Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee members:

I am writing to ask you to defend public safety and families and protect businesses and employees in Kansas by defeating both SB 157 and SB 158.

SB 157: Saddling our already overworked Kansas Highway Patrol officers with responsibilities to enforce federal immigration laws through traffic stops, investigations, holding cells and transportation—is a bad idea. The pursuit of the memorandum of understanding for the Kansas Highway patrol to enforce federal immigration law is unfunded and would result in stealing time and resources away from the protections for Kansas citizens that our KHP is assigned. Please vote NO on SB 157.

SB 158: Prohibitions and sanctions against local law enforcement for not enforcing federal immigration law is a costly idea for the citizens of Kansas. This bill calls for local law enforcement to risk a rift in their relations with the communities and people they serve and with whom they need close cooperation. This damages the effectiveness of local law enforcement officers in solving real crimes when large sections of our citizens are fearful of police and don't trust them. In criminal cases, it will be impossible to get witnesses to testify in court.

The Wichita Police Department and City have worked hard to build relationships with residents with Community Policing strategies. SB 158 would destroy so much of the work that we have implemented to build confidence in the interactions with our law enforcement officers.

Kansas businesses from agriculture to lodging to restaurants rely on immigrant workers. If unauthorized immigrants leave their jobs here because of increased fear from deportation, Kansas businesses across the state will suffer and could be ruined.

Derek Donovan, a *Kansas City Star* reporter wrote a column (2/11/17) about the hundreds of responses from *Star* readers answering why they voted for Trump. Here is part of his summation:

“Most notable in the responses I got was how infrequently immigration came up as a significant reason for a Trump vote. Of the handful of writers who mentioned it, almost all called for “sensible” standards. None wanted all immigration cut off. And only one approvingly characterized Trump’s views as “against Muslims.”

This bill also pledges money from the Kansas general fund to defend local governments against potential lawsuits by victims. Please do not acquiesce to this bill and the unfunded mandates it creates. We are all immigrants or the descendents of immigrants. Protect our futures.

Please vote NO on SB 158.

Very sincerely,
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