

HOUSE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Bill # 2717

Support

Testimony Will Be: In Person Oral _____ Webex Oral_____ Written Only X _____

For Meeting on Tuesday, March 15th at 9am

Kansas Federal and State Committee

Testimony by: Nancy Wagner on behalf of myself, a Kansas resident

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To Committee Chair: Rep. John Barker
Vice Chair: Rep. Tory Marie Amberger
Ranking Minority Member: Rep. Louis Ruiz
and all Members of the Committee

Thank you Chairman Barker and your committee for allowing me to submit written testimony opposing HB 2717.

I believe that HB 2717 is being proposed for strictly political reasons in order to negate the will of the people in a municipal area. The Kansas City Safe & Welcoming Ordinance and Municipal ID is a program just recently passed in Wyandotte County after more than 5 years of intense community education and action. The purpose of the bill is reflected in its title. The people in Wyandotte County desire to welcome all residents in order to make the city more safe for everyone.

Banning municipalities from passing ordinances that would protect immigrant residents from ICE when they report crimes will create dangerous situations, especially for immigrants. If crimes are not reported out of fear, then law enforcement is less effective, likely leading to harm for other citizens.

This bill is in the best interest of a diverse community who have chosen to prosper together by respecting the basic human rights of all people, knowing that when people feel welcomed and safe the whole city benefits. The attempt by Kansas Attorney General Schmidt to invalidate this well-thought out ordinance is politically driven and cruel. The state has always complained of federal overreach and now that same state wants to overreach and negate actions taken by municipalities and counties in the state that are important to the residents of those places.

I see it as a total overreach and I will join with others to resist this negating of the popular will and of local control.

I ask that this bill not move to the floor for a vote.

Sincerely,
Nancy Wagner, Kansas resident