

February 6, 2024
Bill Number: SB446
Opponent Testimony
Kai Guo
Self

Charman Thompson and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am a legal resident of Kansas and I present my deep concerns regarding SB446, which broadly applies restrictions on real estate ownership to individuals from all foreign countries. This approach overlooks the nuances of immigration status, notably for those on working and student visas, and does not account for their potential pathway to permanent residency or citizenship.

The bill's wide-reaching implications risk significant adverse effects on Kansas's demographic and economic landscape. It's important to note that foreign-born individuals constitute 7.0% of our state's population according to American Immigration Council; this number is significantly higher in certain parts of Kansas. These residents play a vital role in our economy, filling key positions, contributing to our communities and tax base, and helping to drive population growth and diversity. Restricting their ability to purchase real estate not only limits their opportunities for contribution but may also deter future international students and workers from making Kansas their home.

Such a measure could severely impact our state's population growth, job creation, and overall economic vitality. I advocate for a more targeted approach in SB446, which differentiates between genuine security concerns and the economic contributions of foreign nationals living in Kansas under work or study visas.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns.

Best,
Kai Guo