

To: House Federal and State Affairs Committee
Subject: Opposition to HB2192

Dear Housing Federal and State Affairs Committee members

I am writing to you my opposition of HB2192 – bill to repeal Instate Tuition.

I am a Kansan, born and raised. I like many Kansans are fully aware that the intent of the in-state tuition bill. It is to help children of immigrants who were brought to the U.S. by their parents. My question to you is what is their to fear, why should there even be a reason to repeal. Many of these families would tell you that they want to be citizens... but the system is broken and for years they have awaited for a reasonable option on how to become documented, so as they wait their children grow, like their parents they work hard, with dreams to make a better life for themselves and their families.

These are students that despite the many obstacles they may have faced they are hardworking, goal oriented, with strong academic standings in their community. These are young individuals who will one day become prosperous, hardworking adults and their families have contributed to Kansas communities. They do not receive federal grants or financial aid.

Do you not want a population of highly educated individuals who will make a positive contribution to their community? Why put another obstacle before many of these kids?

Why are we spending your valuable time to deny an individual the opportunity for an affordable education.

The opposition will tell you why should someone have to pay out-of-state tuition of someone who is undocumented does not have to... well I would say this

- 1) If you live out of state - in many cases you only need to have residency in the state of Kansas for 6 months after which you also qualify for in-state tuition.
- 2) Many of these children that we are talking about have lived here for far longer - since they where very young.

In-state tuition - is a smart business move. Unfortunately In-state tuition was a benefit to only 600 students last year, but it is an investment that will pay ten fold, that will have a positive impact on the quality of life for all who live and work in Kansas.

In 2011 the annual earnings of an individual with only a High school diploma or GED is \$32,000 nationally, that same individual with a Bachelors Degree earnings would be \$55,000.

Kansas needs a higher educated work force. To implement legislation that would do otherwise is voting against the common good, against business, economic development and a high quality of life in Kansas' future.

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