

March 20, 2013

Chairman Siegfried and Honorable Members of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee,

Over the years as a core organizer with Lawrence Fair Food (a local organization supporting a national campaign for migrant farm worker rights), a co-coordinator for English as a Second Language classes at Plymouth Congregational Church, a graduate from the University of Kansas' Spanish program, and a case manager at Centro Hispano Resource Center, I have had the opportunity to spend my time with some phenomenal families who work diligently to provide for their loved ones and their communities. Undocumented immigrants in this nation regularly overcome huge barriers, ones which you or I might fear to even attempt. Whether these families are fleeing violence, economic destruction, environmental collapse, or are just trying to keep their families together, they bite the bullet and push through. When HB 2145 passed to allow in-state tuition, we celebrated the victory that more of these kids would have access to education, which represents the ticket to freedom from the various cycles of oppression. But the victory was not only economic; passing HB 2145 showed legislative support for freedom, education, and justice for a population who has been ravaged by US policy. Peter Brougham said, "Education makes a people easy to lead, but difficult to drive: easy to govern, but impossible to enslave." As a proud resident of the state of Kansas, please represent my demand to oppose HB 2192 in the name of freedom, education, and justice.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jillian M Strobel  
Lawrence, KS

*My statement reflects my individual beliefs. I mention the organizations and universities that I have worked or volunteered for only to show my level of experience and commitment to immigrant justice. ¡Adelante!*