

State of Kansas
House of Representatives

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Ponka-We Victors
Representative, 103rd District

February 15, 2018

House Higher Education Budget Committee
Representative Kevin Jones, Chairman

Mr. Chairman Jones and Members of the Committee:

I stand in opposition to HB-²⁶⁹³~~2693~~. I found out about this bill late last night and I heard the hearing was scheduled for next week. However, after hearing about the sudden change in the schedule my constituents will not be able to be here today to express their thoughts on this issue. There was not enough time or notice for this hearing here today.

Every year since I have served in office, I have witnessed the hateful anti-immigration bills that have come forward, especially directed toward the Kansas dreamers. I have also seen that there has been no appetite for anti-immigration bills here in the legislature. These bills are meant to cause harm and take away opportunities. And Universities should certainly not be punished for providing in-state tuition to dreamers.

Below is a statement of a Kansas dreamer from my district:

Hello, My name is Kelvin Lopez-Garcia and I am DREAMer and DACA recipient. I will be graduating in May, Magna Cum Laude, with a double degree in political science and philosophy. My DREAM is to go on to law school and to represent families in need and give back to this beautiful state that has been my home for the past 13 years. Currently, I work 3 jobs to help pay my way through school. Harmful tactics, such as this bill, can do more damage than good for Kansas students. Please stand in opposition to this bill. Thank you!

Again, I stand in strong opposition to this bill. Thank you for your time and attention on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rep. Ponka-We Victors". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ponka-We Victors