

Dear Representatives Eber Phelps, Jason Probst, Jarrod Ousley, and Brandon Whipple,

My name is Catalina Velarde. I am a Kansas resident and registered voter in house district 24. I am also an immigrant, a naturalized citizen, and an immigration attorney.

I am writing to express my sincere and extreme opposition to HB2643, which seeks to exclude noncitizens / non-lawful permanent residents from classification as "domiciliary residents" of Kansas for purposes of in-state tuition for higher education. This would impact the young men and women in Kansas who hold DACA status and who are currently enrolled or hope to enroll in Kansas colleges and universities to further their education.

A recent survey by the nonpartisan Center for American Progress indicates that "DACA recipients continue to make positive and significant contributions to the economy, including earning higher wages, which translates into [higher tax revenue](#) and economic growth that benefits all Americans. In addition, DACA recipients are buying cars, purchasing their first homes, and even creating new businesses. The survey's results also show that at least 72 percent of the top 25 Fortune 500 companies employ DACA recipients. **Moreover, 97 percent of respondents are currently employed or enrolled in school.**" DACA recipients invest in higher education, and they invest in business creation at a rate higher than the US average. We need those investments to be in Kansas.

I believe in accessible education for all Kansans, but I do not believe that we must chose between foster children and aspiring Americans. There is enough opportunity in Kansas for all. Thank you for your consideration of my opposition to HB2643. I am happy to answer any additional questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,
Catalina Velarde, JD, MBA
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<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2017/08/28/437956/daca-recipients-economic-educational-gains-continue-grow/>