

House Bill: 2717

I urge Members of the House Federal and State affairs Committee and all Member of the House of Representatives to vote no on House Bill: 2717

The residents of Wyandotte County, Kansas and their elected commissioners and mayor know our community first hand and are the best judges of its needs. I am perplexed that elected officials in Topeka who constantly complain about government overreach and are proponents of small government would at the same time choose to legislate like Big Brother and dictate to a municipality that they know better than those who live in Wyandotte County do about what are good solutions for them.

Also, it must be understood that immigration law is federal law. There is neither funding for nor any requirement that local police or sheriffs enforce or cooperate in the enforcement of immigration law, actions for which they are not trained. The Safe and Welcoming ordinance in fact does not ban cooperation with federal immigration authorities if the public safety is at risk. What the Safe and Welcoming ordinance does is set boundaries and clear guidelines a municipality should have with federal agencies like ICE, but in no way does it prohibit cooperation.

As you consider this bill, remember that immigrants from many different parts of the world make great contributions to the State of Kansas, occupy places in the work force helping business remain open when no other workers are found, (too often now I find a restaurant or store closed because of lack of staff) and help the economy by paying taxes on food as well as many who pay income taxes.

And as the Christian tradition which I profess and the Bible that is Sacred to Christianity, in the Gospel of Mathew says: " I was hungry and you gave me to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU WELCOMED ME."

Again I urge you to vote no on House Bill 2717

Sincerely,

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