

Testimony in opposition of:

HB 2717: AN ACT concerning municipalities; relating to law enforcement agencies and cooperation with federal officials regarding citizenship, immigration status and enforcement of federal immigration laws; requiring any municipal identification card to state it is not valid for state identification

**Submitted by:
Richard Martinez
Topeka, KS**

Chairman Barker and members of the Committee. My name is Richard Martinez and I am a lifelong resident of Topeka. My wife and I have four children with one still at home.

I will be briefly explain why I oppose HB 2717.

It's anti-business. In the early 1900's, my grandfathers came to Topeka from Mexico to work for the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway. There were simply not enough workers willing to work grueling hours for low pay. Yet, my grandfathers saw this as a way to improve their lives and the lives of their families compared to what they had to deal with in Mexico. I cannot find any record that they were ever naturalized, yet they paid taxes and contributed to the community. I was the first grandchild to graduate from college. I would not be here now if my grandfathers did not take the risk of coming to Kansas, which became our home. Now Kansas has an opportunity to attract a \$4 billion dollar investment from a company that needs at least 4,000 workers. This bill creates an atmosphere of fear and retaliation among all workers and could put the opportunity to grow Kansas at risk.

It puts all Kansans at risk. This bill could prevent many from seeking healthcare, as they may not want to risk being "on the radar". It may prevent individuals from reporting crime. Imagine being a witness to a violent crime, like sexual assault or murder, and not coming forward out of fear of being deported or causing your entire family to be deported. This is bad for all Kansans.

I urge you to oppose HB 2717. Please reach out to me with any questions. My contact information is on the cover sheet. Thank you for your time today.