

Opposed to HB 2717

As a resident of Kansas City, Kansas and a local business owner, I am completely opposed to HB 2717.

Kansas has been a Home Rule state since 1961, and as such is based on the power of local government to making local decisions, as specified and protected in Article 12, §5(b) of the Kansas Constitution.

The citizens of Kansas City, Kansas, its Unified Government commissioners, and the city mayor know the community and know firsthand the community's needs and challenges. They are the ones best equipped to make informed decisions about solutions, and they are the ones who have crafted and already approved this local ordinance through the correct legal procedures. Ignoring or overriding local process and local results seems to be a clear case of state government overreach.

Further, the Safe & Welcoming Ordinance that HB 2717 is needlessly attempting to counteract does not establish anything at a state level, or create any type of state-recognized ID, but merely a local one. The writers of the ordinance have spent years ensuring that it is legally sound and that it will not stop law enforcement from doing their job. The Safe & Welcoming Ordinance does not prevent local law enforcement from enforcing judicial warrants, or investigating criminal activity, nor does it prevent local law enforcement from cooperating with federal agents such as ICE in the case of a threat to public safety.

Please abide by the Kansas Constitution, allow cities to determine their own affairs, and vote against HB 2717.

Thank you for your time,
Ty Melgren