



House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Rep. John Barker, Chair
Hearing: Tuesday, March 15, 2022
Position – OPPOSE HB2717

Chair Barker and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony opposing HB2717.

Mainstream Coalition is a nonpartisan nonprofit organization working to empower informed participation and meaningful action in the political process. We envision a Kansas political system that equitably represents all of its constituents.

Mainstream opposes attempts by the state legislature to strip rights from individuals or put community members in harm's way, which is exactly what HB2717 would do. Protections afforded by Safe & Welcoming ordinances across the state are essential for building relationships of trust between communities and local governments.

Local law enforcement agencies are already required to collaborate with federal officials when compelled or appropriate. The use of a Municipal or Community ID as a state ID is already prohibited in Safe & Welcoming ordinances. HB2717 is simply a "solution" in search of a problem.

In these uncertain times, we as a community have an opportunity to come together. We need to combat the increase of hate and exclusion in our communities and in the broader nation. Instead of alienating the immigrant community, we must welcome and support our neighbors. A "NO" vote by you would send a clear message that you, the stewards of our state, support all Kansas residents, especially those who are most often marginalized.

We urge you to oppose HB2717. It is time to commit to building truly safe and welcoming communities across Kansas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Poppa", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Poppa
Executive Director

Founded in 1993, Mainstream Coalition is dedicated to creating a more representative and responsive government by empowering informed participation and meaningful action in the political process.

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