



# City of Lawrence

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March 11, 2022

Representative John Barker  
Chair – House Committee on Federal and State Affairs  
Room 346-S, Statehouse  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Re: House Bill 2717

Dear Chairperson John Barker and Committee Members:

The City of Lawrence is opposed to passage of House Bill 2717 to the extent that it infringes upon a city's Home Rule authority to enact lawful local laws it deems appropriate. As you know, this Bill creates certain restrictions upon a municipality's ability to enact or enforce local laws or policies related to communication and cooperation with federal officials regarding the citizenship or immigration status of an individual.

The City of Lawrence has previously declared itself a "Welcoming City" that values immigrants and fosters a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for all. We proudly commit to building a welcoming and neighborly atmosphere in our community, where all people, including immigrants, are accepted and able to access all City services regardless of their immigration status and without being subjected to unlawful discrimination.

Our policies and ordinance were carefully crafted to comply with all applicable state and federal laws. We think other cities should have the ability to enact laws and policies that comply with laws but also fit the needs and values of their communities without concern of an overarching state statute that controls how such lawful local laws and policies are to be written.

The Kansas Legislature should not disturb Home Rule authority, which was created to provide municipal authority to respond to the values and priorities set by community members. For these reasons, the City of Lawrence strongly discourages the adoption of this Bill as written.

Sincerely,

Courtney Shipley  
Mayor



We are committed to providing excellent city services that enhance the quality of life for the Lawrence Community