

The Federal and State Affairs Committee

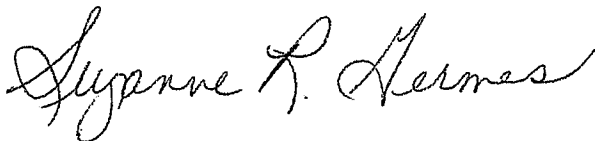
I am a life-long Kansan, resident of Topeka and retired after 38 years as teacher, principal and Superintendent of Schools. I strongly oppose HB 2578! This bill may have been tweaked to take away the threat of arresting school personnel but the effect it will have on students and their progress is unsettling. This bill will definitely hurt student progress on state assessments as the attendance of undocumented students will constantly be in flux resulting in these students being stressed and anxious. This bill will not improve our schools but will certainly have a negative effect on these students as well as their teachers and friends.

Many undocumented students that I have had the privilege to know are bright, hardworking young adults who only want a chance to apply for citizenship. They have attended US public schools most if not all of their school years and as an educator I have prepared them as any other student to be a lifelong learner as well as a productive US citizen. As a tax payer and educator, I would think it prudent to allow these students to remain in their present environment while at the same time permitting them a pathway to citizenship so they could use their academic talents and skills to help Kansas and the US prosper.

Rural schools have special challenges such as recruiting and keeping qualified employees. This bill would be detrimental in that when an employee was married to an undocumented spouse the likelihood of them leaving their position to relocate would be ever present and highly probable.

As I listened to the hearing on this same subject in 2011, it appeared that people of Hispanic heritage were being attacked and profiled. I agree that any undocumented person that commits a felony should be quickly deported, but it is unreasonable and quite un-American not to give those that have chosen to be law abiding a fair chance at citizenship while continuing in their present situation.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns and views. Bills, such as this one, do little to resolve the issue but only emphasize the demoralizing of a group of people. I am not proud of my state when the governing officials chose to cause problems rather than find solutions.



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House Fed & State Affairs

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Attachment

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