

Dear Chairman Jones,

I am deeply concerned with your actions on HB 2643. You changed the date and time for the hearing, and did not give the public enough time to be able to attend. I feel like this change was implemented so that you do not get any testimonies from opponents.

I am very concerned because this bill is an excuse to hold off on granting tuition equity to undocumented students. To deny equal access to an education to our community is to deny not only an opportunity for the state of Kansas and this nation to be a better place, but I believe it to be anti-American and against what this country stands for.

In-state tuition has allowed many young individuals in Southwest Kansas to pursue their dreams. It has also had a positive economic impact in our communities and colleges. If in-state tuition is taken away, it is going to hurt our community colleges in Southwest Kansas. Students will have to pay more, which I believe will discourage them to further their education. This will have a negative impact in our enrollment numbers. If students stop coming, this is going to affect our budget and programs. If we start losing students, then we may have to remove certain programs that are not meeting high numbers. We will also have to eliminate positions because of budget cuts. This puts my job at risk. If I don't have a good traffic flow of students, then why would the college keep me employed? This makes me get worried because a lot of the institutions are already struggling financially and facing budget cuts. This will only cause more budget cuts to our institution. I ask you to reconsider passing a bill that will not only hurt our youth, but professionals at education institutions.

Sincerely,

Janeth Vazquez
Academic Advisor/Transfer Coordinator