

ATTENTION: House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Chair: Representative John Barker

OPPOSITION TESTIMONY TO HB 2717

A BILL PROHIBITING ANY MUNICIPALITY FROM PREVENTING THE ENFORCEMENT OF FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAWS, REQUIRING MUNICIPAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO PROVIDE WRITTEN NOTICE TO EACH LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE OFFICER'S DUTY TO COOPERATE WITH STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF IMMIGRATION LAWS AND REQUIRING ANY MUNICIPAL IDENTIFICATION CARD TO STATE ON ITS FACE THAT IT IS NOT VALID FOR STATE IDENTIFICATION.

I write in opposition to HB 2717. This is an overtly partisan, political move by the Attorney General in his bid to be Kansas next governor.

This bill directs attention to areas that have never been proposed and do not now exist in law and attempts to scuttle a half a decade's work to secure residents' ability to access quotidian services within the community. This might include, but is not limited to picking up prescriptions, accessing healthcare, getting a monthly bus pass, opening a bank account or even enrolling their children in school!

A municipal ID is a form of photo identification issued by a city or county government. It doesn't prevent the enforcement of Federal laws or even state and local laws. The only commitment that ONE county decided was in its best interests (one county of 105 counties) was that local law enforcement would not take the first step in investigating immigration status. The county's residents support the intention that their local government, its departments, and its police, in the course of rendering emergent services, should not report residents to CBP/ICE. This is a very different intention than addressed in HB 2717.

This overreach by the state legislature in both interpretation of new law and stripping local control from communities is an affront. Do not pass HB 2717 from committee.

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