

To the Federal and State Affairs Committee

Testimony regarding HB2717

Sister Janice Thome

In my experience here in Garden City, Kansas this bill is unnecessary.

Our Garden City Police Department and our Finney County Sherriff's Department are both very compliant with what ICE asks of them. The only exceptions that I know of in these last 20 plus years is when ICE asks them to hold someone beyond the legal limits of why they are in custody. They cannot legally break such laws.

Any other times that ICE has been here or asked the help of these two departments, they have been of assistance. I know they have even gone out with the ICE agents at times in the past.

My fear is that this bill will make it far more difficult for all local law enforcement entities to help maintain public safety and to enforce all types of laws. It will create an atmosphere of fear among the persons who are still in the process of getting their citizenship. The trust they now have in our law officers will be damaged. They will not report unlawful acts against them as readily as they do now. Thus the reason for this bill "to ensure public safety" will instead deteriorate it.

Thank you,

Sister Janice Thome

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