

My name is Randy Lopez, from Kansas City, Kansas and I oppose this bill HB2717 because I believe in loving and embracing our neighbors and all in our community; to provide a safe place for all, and to not live in fear.

Wyandotte County continues to be one of the most diverse communities in the country; these are families that want to be here and that love our community. Families who have helped to strengthen the economy, helped to create jobs, helped to redevelop and revitalize our community.

However, many of these families continue to live in the shadows and in fear because of fear mongering and hate, from discrimination and prejudice. HB2717 continues to push that fear into communities. This bill would ask our law enforcement to act as enforcers of immigration law and perpetuates the distrust that we are working on. This bill makes it more difficult for us to build a loving and inclusive Wyandotte County.

HB 2717 is also government overreach. The residents of Wyandotte County and their elected commissioners and mayor know our community first-hand and are the best judge of its needs. We are perplexed that elected officials in Topeka who constantly complain about government overreach and are proponents of small government would at the same time choose to legislate and dictate to a municipality that they know better than we do what are good solutions for our people.

HB 2717 would exacerbate worker shortages, hurt our economy, hurt relationships of our police and community.

To do what this bill requires would devastate our community economically and socially.

I am asking that you oppose HB2717 because it's not in the best interest of our community, of our families, of our schools, of our economy and of the people.

Please help us to stand up to fear and hate, and stand up for justice and love.