

Approved: 3/26/12
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steven R. Brunk at 1:30 p.m. on February 14, 2012, in Room 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Henderson – Excused
Representative Holmes – Excused
Representative Peterson - Excused

Committee staff present:

Mike Heim, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Julian Efird, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Stephen Bainum, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Kris W. Kobach, Self
Bill Gordon, Mid-America Green Industry Council
Angela Ferguson, Austin :& Ferguson, L.L.C.
Desima Dawdy, The Livestock and Ag Community
Sister Therese Bangert, Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth
Elias L. Garcia, The Kansas League of United Latin American Citizens
Renee Slinkard, Kansas Citizens for Immigration Law Enforcement
W. Paul Degener, Self

Others attending: See attached.

Representative Boman introduced a bill about qualifications for election.

The Chairman continued the hearing on **HB 2712–Kansas business workers and community partnership act; undocumented aliens.**

Kris Kobach presented testimony as an opponent of **HB 2712** (Attachment 1). He said that under federal law there was no mechanism by which a state can confer employment authorization to aliens unlawfully in the United States.

Bill Gordon presented testimony as a proponent of **HB 2712** (Attachment 2). Representative Goico asked if the H2B program was one that Kansas could use. Bill said that the H2B program was subject to change.

Angela Ferguson testified as a proponent of **HB 2712** (Attachment 3). Because the Federal process takes so long, immigrants are left without any type of status while they wait. **HB 2712** gives them a temporary program to work legally, drive legally and conduct business legally. This is a win-win proposal.

CONTINUATION SHEET

The minutes of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee at 1:30 p.m. on February 14, 2012, in Room 346-S of the Capitol.

Desima Dawdy appeared as a proponent of **HB 2712** (Attachment 4). Desima said that the reality is that a lot of the unemployed are unemployable. They have drug issues, lack education, skills, physical stamina or a poor work ethic. Many would rather collect unemployment than work hard.

Sister Therese Bangert presented testimony as a proponent of **HB 2712** (Attachment 5). She said that everyone acknowledges that immigration is a problem. While the bill does many good things it still does not give any protected status or path toward citizenship to the worker. The Sisters of Charity have authored a Community Stance in Support of Comprehensive Immigration Reform. It is part of the attachment.

Elias L. Garcia gave testimony as a proponent of **HB 2712** (Attachment 6). LULAC supports the bill because it supports economic development that promotes the well being of Kansas.

Renee Slinkard produced testimony as an opponent of **HB 2712** (Attachment 7). Illegal aliens should not be allowed to stay and reap rewards such as jobs and tax payer funded benefits. Hiring illegal aliens will not help Kansas economically and it will not help families.

Representative Kiegerl presented testimony as an opponent of **HB 2712** (Attachment 8).

W. Paul Degener testified as an opponent of **HB 2712** (Attachment 9). He said that this bill sounds a lot like Obama's back door approach to amnesty for illegal aliens.

Written testimony in support of **HB 2712** was submitted by:

Mary Lou Jaramillo, El Centro, Inc. (Attachment 10)

Bob Totten, The Kansas Contractors Association, (Attachment 11)

Lalo Munoz, Self, (Attachment 12)

Leslie Kaufman, The Kansas Cooperative Council, (Attachment 13)

Lety Sarmiento, Self, (Attachment 14)

Ron Seeber, The Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association, (Attachment 15)

Kelli Maydew, Kansas Livestock Association, (Attachment 16)

Christy Caldwell, The Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce, (Attachment 17)

Michael Schuttloffel, The Kansas Catholic Conference, (Attachment 18)

Kenneth Schmitt, The American Immigration Lawyers Association, (Attachment 19)

Written testimony as neutral on **HB 2712** was submitted by:

Jim Edwards, The Kansas Association of School Boards, (Attachment 20)

The Chairman closed the hearing on **HB 2712**.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.