STATE OF KANSAS SENATE

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CARYN TYSON

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Mr. Arlen Siegfreid Chairman, House Federal and State Affairs Committee State Capitol 300 SW 10th Avenue Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Chairman Siegfreid and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Please support House Bill (HB) 2192, amending Kansas Statutes 76-729 and repealing 76-731a. Your support will save money for Kansas taxpayers and will stop benefits going to people who have broken Federal law.

As you consider your vote for HB 2192, please remember that **U.S. citizens** who are not Kansas residents and **foreign-exchange students**, students who have obeyed the law and entered our country legally, **pay** higher rates to attend our state educational institutions than unlawful aliens pay to attend the same **institution**. A vote "yes" for HB 2192 helps correct this injustice.

HB 2192 does not prevent a student from attending a taxpayer-funded educational institution, nor does it deny an individual the ability to obtain citizenship. An unlawful alien may apply for U.S. citizenship at 18 years of age. If under 18, they may become a naturalized citizen by at least one parent being or becoming a U.S. citizen. (Source: www.uscis.gov)

Kansas Statute requires "a person without lawful immigration status to sign an affidavit stating that the person or the person's parents have filed an application to legalize such person's immigration status... to begin the process for citizenship of the United States..." Kansas Statute 76-731a is flawed. After signing the affidavit, a majority of these individuals must leave the United States in order to obey Federal law in obtaining citizenship.

As legislators, we appropriate funds. The fewer funds collected for tuition fees means Kansas taxpayers make up the difference at a lower rate for in-state versus out-of-state and foreign exchange student rates. When a person is not lawfully in our country and attends a Kansas school, they are receiving a benefit that is subsidized by Kansas taxpayers.

It is contradictory that we continue to use taxpayer money to provide this benefit to individuals who have broken Federal law and cannot be hired for legal employment in the U.S.

Our country and state were established by law. How can we be just in giving benefits to those who disrespect our laws.

Respectfully submitted,

Caryn Tyson Kansas Senate, District 12