

February 22, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my opposition of HB 2139. As a student, and previously an undocumented immigrant, this bill hits home.

In-state tuition has been a blessing to many people I know, including myself. To have the privilege of obtaining a postsecondary education is what "The American Dream" is all about for a lot of us. Our parents ingrained the vision in our minds even before we understood what they were saying. To obtain this Dream, it would require a strong work ethic and consistent hard work from kindergarten to college graduation and beyond. Without in-state tuition, all the hard work that was put into kindergarten through senior year in high school, would have been in vain.

I am so proud to say that thanks to the values I was taught by my parents, thanks to the vision of "The American Dream" that has been painted by everyone, even our history books, I was able to graduate with honors in the top 10% of my class at Topeka High School.

What makes the United States so unique is that it was built by immigrants. This bill targets some of the best building blocks of this great nation. Why go after those who are hard workers, eager to learn, trying to better themselves: people who soon may be attorneys, educators, entrepreneurs: people that will end up being contributors of society.

It saddens me to the deepest parts of my heart that there are such selfish people who spend their days trying to bring down others around them. How does someone paying in-state tuition affect you in any way? Wouldn't it be just as time consuming and more productive and efficient use of your time, and actually rewarding to help build others up? The people involved in writing this hateful bill have no idea how hard it is to be a minority. We are automatically guilty, of anything. We don't have the luxury of having a good first impression. We have to work twice as hard to prove ourselves worthy.

We are the wrong people to persecute. There are so many worthy, intelligent, hard-working human beings who take advantage of in-state tuition. HB 2139 hinders our "American Dream". We are important contributors of the Kansas communities.

Thank you for your time,

Karla R.