



## City of Dodge City

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**To:** Chairman Kevin Jones and House Committee on Higher Education Budget  
**From:** Cherise Tieben, City Manager  
**Date:** February 19, 2018  
**Subject:** Written Testimony in Opposition of HB 2643

Dear Rep. Kevin Jones;

Thank you for considering my testimony on behalf of the City of Dodge City in opposition of House Bill 2643, which would repeal in-state tuition for undocumented students to attend colleges and universities in the State of Kansas.

Communities in Southwest Kansas rely heavily on labor provided by immigrants and refugees. The Latino population alone represents over 50 percent of the population in Liberal, Garden City and Dodge City. Over 80 percent of the student population at the Dodge City High School is Latino and the large majority of these students attend Dodge City Community College upon graduation. By granting undocumented students in-state tuition, our communities' economy are impacted positively and gains the chance to make a difference in a young adult's life.

According to the Kansas Board of Regents, 670 undocumented students were enrolled in the fall of 2017. We are certain that the majority of these students are beneficiaries of the Deferred Action of Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which grants them a protection from deportation and an employment authorization. DACA recipients pay taxes like all citizens in this country, but do not qualify for grants, federal financial assistance or any other government assistance to help pay for college.

The City of Dodge City strongly supports in-state tuition for undocumented students/DACA recipients. We believe that allowing DACA recipients to access higher education strengthens our communities and is the right thing to do. We urge you to work with all parties and find consensus among all interested groups. It is for all of the above reasons that we strongly urge you to oppose House Bill 2643.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cherise Tieben". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cherise Tieben  
City Manager