

Courtney Bell  
Private Citizen  
HB 2448 Opponent  
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Thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2448 with you today. My name is Courtney Bell and I am a voter in Sedgwick County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2448

It has been my honor to help students in the state of Kansas pursue a post-secondary education for the past 20 years. In that role, I have worked with many students from all walks of life, including Dreamers. Though these undocumented students face an uphill battle, especially when it comes to pursuing a higher education, they have the most fortitude, resilience, and positive attitude I have been blessed to witness. Despite what this legislation states, these students are already not able to use state or federal funding to pay for any kind of college or technical school—something I'm well acquainted with since it is my job to help secure post-secondary education for students. That means these students who are often the brightest, most involved, hardest-working, and most talented students in their class, must pay out-of-pocket for college. This legislation would also hurt revenues at Kansas colleges because, if the students weren't able to get in-state tuition, college would become unaffordable for them. Pricing them out of a Kansas college seems to be counterintuitive to making a skilled and talented workforce in our Kansas communities. We have already invested in these wonderful students through their K-12 education, and to prohibit them from paying out-of-pocket so that they can gain the skills and credentials needed to better contribute to our Kansas communities is not only fiscally irresponsible, but it is also cruel in my opinion.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of HB 2448. Thank you.