

Alejandro Rangel-López
Campaign Manager for New Frontiers
Written Only Opponent Testimony of SCR 1602
For the House Committee on Federal & State Affairs

February 5th, 2025

Chair Kessler and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. My name is Alejandro Rangel-Lopez from Dodge City, and I am speaking to you today as the Campaign Manager of New Frontiers. We're a southwest Kansas based project of the nonpartisan, nonprofit organization Loud Light Civic Action. New Frontiers' mission is to empower young southwest Kansans through the values of dignity, belonging, and freedom. I'm here representing over 500 Kansans who have signed on to this project. We stand in opposition to SCR 1602 as it is firmly in conflict with the values of local rule and dignity that we hold as Kansans.

To start, this resolution is an attack on the long-established home rule norm for Kansas municipalities. As stated in the resolution, the legislature is encouraging the Governor and the executive branch to exert undue influence on local governments to expend their resources on a mandate that lies firmly within the realm and scope of the federal government. Immigration is a federal issue and proper legislative channels at that level must be followed to fund such a mandate, efforts by this legislature to force the expenditure of state and local resources places an undue burden on law enforcement agencies and their municipalities.

Additionally, law enforcement agencies in areas ranging from Kansas City, Kansas to the western edge of our state have worked diligently over the course of decades in some cases to build trust with the immigrant communities they serve and protect. The ramifications of enacting the proposed collaboration between local agencies and federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS) would have devastating impacts on the rate of crime reporting from this community and further erode trust. This makes Kansas less safe for everyone, not just immigrants.

Instead of fostering fear and providing a blank check for federal agencies to waste vital local resources, the legislature and this body should prioritize quality of life improvements for *all* Kansans. This resolution does nothing except instill fear in our hard working immigrant communities. Thank you and I hope you take my testimony into consideration.