

Jessica Carr
Written Opponent Testimony on HB 2771
For the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Dear Chair Kessler and Members of the Committee –

Thank you for the opportunity to share my position on HB 2771. My name is Jessica Carr, and I am a resident and voter in Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas.

I am opposed to HB 2771 because it further institutionalizes a breach of trust between local law enforcement and their communities. The bill continues to expand engagement with federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and to create more fear throughout *all* our communities, particularly after the events in Minneapolis.

I understand that Kansas sheriffs want to be protected from the legal and financial fallout from ICE activities. I do not believe, however, that the answer is to further solidify systems that support, or potentially expand, forms of collaboration with ICE that may lead to legal liability for unconstitutional activity. The answer is to rein in unconstitutional activity, focus only on detaining undocumented individuals who have committed the most serious crimes, and diligently work to prevent further harms to our democratic institutions and our social fabric.

I also ask:

- Who will pay for this? HB 2771 is an unfunded mandate. Kansas taxpayers will ultimately be responsible for the actions of untrained federal agents.
- Why is the Kansas Legislature undermining local control by taking away the power of county commissioners over their own sheriffs?

Please find a different way to protect the bottom line for our sheriffs. And please find a way to protect our communities that are riven by fear...and I am not just talking about immigrant communities.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jessica Carr