

February 24, 2026

Honorable Chair and Members of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee,

I am writing in opposition to HB2771, which I oppose for three reasons. I appreciate the opportunity to submit written opponent testimony on this bill. I hope the committee will reject HB2771.

First, this bill authorizes detention of undocumented immigrants with only ICE administrative warrants—*not* judicial warrants signed by a judge—as justification. As we have witnessed around the country this year, ICE’s use of administrative warrants has led to abuses of authority, unconstitutional seizures and searches, and gross miscarriages of justice. For safety, health, and rule of law, **Kansas should insist on constitutional conduct of all law enforcement in our state.**

Second, HB2771 undermines local government authority, allowing county sheriffs to sign interlocal cooperation agreements with ICE without even consulting with their county’s board of supervisors. This extraordinary authorization **could gut Kansas’s proud tradition of local control.**

Finally, and as a parent and community member, most alarmingly, **HB2771 would make Kansans less safe.** Deputizing local law enforcement to conduct immigration enforcement would divert crucial resources from local investigations, while suppressing immigrants’ crime reporting and interfering with community cooperation with police and other law enforcement entities. In Kansas and around the U.S., many law enforcement leaders have opposed provisions like 287g as costly unfunded mandates, dangerous distractions, and unwise disruptions to careful community alliances. HB2771 breaches cultivated trust, bringing long-lasting impacts on civic, economic, and social health and well-being of all in Kansas—not just those who are immigrants.

Kansas should focus on our collective needs, not insert our state into the political conflicts roiling other parts of the country. We should let local communities dictate their own law enforcement priorities—together—instead of robbing Kansas’s coffers to subsidize the nation’s highest-funded law enforcement agency. We should welcome immigrants’ contributions to our state and reject this ill-advised proposal that strains local resources to bolster ICE’s lawless overreach.

Sincerely,



Melinda Lewis

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