



Yazmin Valdez
Kansas Latino Community Network
Written Opponent Testimony of HB2771
For the Senate Federal & State Affairs Committee

February 24, 2026

Chair Kessler and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony opposing HB 2771. My name is Yazmin Valdez, and I serve with the Kansas Latino Community Network, a nonprofit organization working alongside families and communities across our state.

On behalf of our workers, parents, veterans, small business owners, church members, all who pay taxes, raise families, and contribute every day to the strength of Kansas. We are here to respectfully urge you to oppose HB 2771.

Kansas families are already feeling the strain of rising costs locally, with groceries, rent, utilities, healthcare becoming unaffordable for many. Yet this bill would require Kansas taxpayers to spend our hard-earned money enforcing federal immigration law, through housing, detaining, and processing individuals for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) even though immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility.

ICE is already the highest-funded federal law enforcement agency in the country. Why should Kansas taxpayers be forced to subsidize federal enforcement efforts? That is not responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

HB 2771 creates an unfunded mandate on county sheriffs who are already stretched thin responding to mental health crises, gun violence, and substance abuse. This bill would allow individuals with no criminal charges to be detained for up to 48 hours. That takes up jail space and resources that should be reserved for legitimate public safety threats. This is not a public safety bill — it is a paperwork and liability bill.

The misplaced priorities of this bill will turn county jails into immigration detention centers and that does not make our neighborhoods safer. What it does for our communities is break trust. For decades, local law enforcement in many Kansas communities has worked hard to build relationships with immigrant families. When local police are seen as extensions of federal immigration enforcement, that trust disappears.

Here is where this distrust appears:





- When victims of domestic violence stop reporting abuse.
- When workers stop reporting exploitation and wage theft.
- When witnesses stop cooperating in investigations.

HB 2771 would also force Kansas insurance pools to cover federal immigration enforcement and require Kansas taxpayers to foot the bill if civil rights violations occur. That means if someone's rights are violated, it is Kansas families who pay, not the federal government who caused this infraction. Kansas taxpayers assume the liability. Local counties assume the risk.

Kansas has had a reputation of limited government and local control for our people, this bill represents the opposite. It is federal overreach into our counties, forcing local officials to carry out federal responsibilities.

Immigration is a federal issue. Public safety in Kansas is a local issue. We should not blur that line at the expense of our communities and our tax dollars. Boundaries are important.

Kansas Latino families believe in hard work, responsibility, and community safety. We want strong neighborhoods and accountable government. HB 2771 does not deliver that.

We respectfully ask you to vote NO on HB 2771 and protect Kansas taxpayers, public safety, and the trust between local law enforcement and the communities they serve. Protect real public safety. Do not turn our county jails into extensions of federal detention.

Thank you for your time.

Yazmin Valdez

Kansas Latino Community Network