

February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs  
State Capitol  
300 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Topeka, KS 66612

**Health Forward Foundation opposition to SB 254 – prohibiting aliens unlawfully present in the United States from receiving any state or local public benefit.**

Chair Thompson and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Health Forward Foundation (Health Forward), I submit this letter of testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 254. Health Forward works to support and build inclusive, powerful, and healthy communities characterized by economically just systems. We oppose this legislation as it will impact the availability of attaining higher education to people who were brought here as young children and who are undocumented. This will negatively affect the health sciences field as there will be no in-state tuition option for these people to start their education and career in Kansas.

SB 254 would have a negative impact on the health sciences professional pipeline in Kansas. Across Kansas, nearly 16% of hospital positions are vacant, according to the [Kansas Hospital Association](#). By eliminating in-state tuition, Kansas will make it nearly impossible for those who are here with undocumented status to learn and practice in any health sciences field.

People who are undocumented have a significant impact in the delivery of health care services. For example, people brought here when they were young who are undocumented – known as ‘Dreamers’ – comprise around [27,000 health care workers](#) and support staff jobs and those training as medical students have the potential to serve at least 1.7 million patients in their careers, according to the American Medical Association.

Health Forward asks legislators on this committee to vote no on SB 254. This legislation will add even more difficulty in filling the gaps in the health sciences workforce and would have detrimental impacts on the delivery of health care throughout the state. Please feel free to reach out to me at [nmadden@healthforward.org](mailto:nmadden@healthforward.org) if you have any questions or requests for additional information.

Respectfully,

Nathan J. Madden, Ph.D.  
Impact Strategist - Policy  
Health Forward Foundation

**OUR  
PURPOSE**

*Every day we work to support and build inclusive, powerful, and healthy communities characterized by racial equity and economically just systems.*