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**Testimony of Attorney General Kris Kobach  
Proponent for SCR  
Committee on Federal and State Affairs  
January 16, 2025**

Senator Thompson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the need uphold the rule of law and ensure our citizens' safety and security.

I drafted and led a letter to the Trump administration on behalf of 19 Republican attorneys general urging the President-elect to secure the border and to stop Biden's immigration policies that caused a historic surge of illegal immigration. Republican attorneys general took the Biden administration to court multiple times to stop Biden's lawless use of immigration executive orders. In many of those cases, we asked the Biden administration to enforce the existing immigration laws.

President Trump's America First immigration policies resulted in record-low illegal immigration during his first term. As evidenced by his historic victory in November, Americans rightly believe that President Trump will once again keep our borders secure and restore the rule of law in immigration, and I am hopeful that Kansas officials, including the Governor, will support President Trump's efforts to return to the successful America First policies that protected our country during the first Trump administration.

Illegal immigration costs taxpayers an average of \$4,308 per illegal alien, and an estimated 104,000 illegal aliens live in Kansas, according to research from the Federation

for American Immigration Reform. Due to illegal immigration, Kansas taxpayers are on the hook for additional education, policing and corrections, healthcare, and public assistance to the tune of \$603.1 million in 2023.

President Trump’s policies will help reverse that trend. President Trump will reinstate the “Remain in Mexico” policy, which Congress authorized nearly 30 years ago (8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(C)) to prevent the very catastrophe we are currently witnessing at our southern border—perpetual waves of illegal aliens overwhelming our immigration system and threatening our national security.<sup>1</sup> I support his plan to “end the illegal immigration crisis by closing our border and finishing the wall.”<sup>2</sup>

I support President Trump’s commitments to end the abuse of immigration parole and to issue an urgently needed executive order to stop federal agencies from granting birthright citizenship.<sup>3</sup> As he promised to do at the end of his first term, I trust that President Trump will fully rescind the unlawful DACA programs.<sup>4</sup> President Trump’s first administration also used Section 287(g) agreements to deputize state and local law enforcement agencies to enforce our immigration laws, and I urge officials in Kansas to be ready to collaborate with the Trump administration on these efforts.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act, P.L. 104-208, Div. C, 110 Stat. 3009 (1996).

<sup>2</sup> Donald J. Trump, Remarks at the 2024 Republican National Convention (July 19, 2024) (transcript available at <https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/28/politics/donald-trump-speech-transcript/index.html>).

<sup>3</sup> See Agenda47: Day One Executive Order Ending Citizenship for Children of Illegals and Outlawing Birth Tourism, May 30, 2023, <https://www.donaldjtrump.com/agenda47/agenda47-day-one-executive-order-ending-citizenship-for-children-of-illegals-and-outlawing-birth-tourism>.

<sup>4</sup> Donald J. Trump, June 19, 2020, X.com, <https://x.com/realDonaldTrump/status/1273967323901317120?s=20>

<sup>5</sup> See Executive Order No. 13,768, 82 Fed. Reg. 8799 (2017), available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/01/30/2017-02102/enhancing-public-safety-in-the-interior-of-the-united-states>.