

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lance Kinzer at 3:30 p.m. on March 10, 2011, in Room 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Jill Wolters, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Matt Sterling, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Tamera Lawrence, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Lauren Douglass, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Robert Allison-Gallimore, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Sue VonFeldt, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

See below.

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Hearing on **HB 2372 - Requiring verification of employment eligibility and making other amendments concerning immigration** was opened.

Jill Wolters, Senior Assistant Revisor, presented an overview of the bill. ([Attachment 1](#))

Chairman Kinzer announced a format had been agreed to beforehand that would allow one chosen speaker from the proponents and one from the opponents to present testimony for approximately twenty minutes, and then, in order to allow everyone the opportunity to testify before the committee, following each main speaker, Chairman Kinzer asked everyone to be considerate and respectful and limit their testimony to a few minutes.

Kris Kobach, Secretary of State, for the state of Kansas, appeared before the committee to provide testimony and legal expertise in support of the bill. He stated Kansas has the clear legal authority to require government agencies and recipients of government contracts to use E-Verify, and that the federal government and all four of the surrounding states are all using E-Verify. He explained E-Verify was mandated by Congress in 1996, and it is an internet-based system that any employer in the United States may utilize to verify whether an individual seeking employment is authorized to work in the United States. He stated Kansas is required by Federal Law to deny public benefits to illegal aliens and that more than a dozen states have already taken action to ensure that they are in compliance with the federal law. He also stated that Kansas has an estimated population of 90,000 illegal aliens, and in light of the fact that our neighboring states have already taken significant steps to reduce illegal immigration, Kansas will become the destination for illegal aliens in the Midwest. He also provided information regarding the law enforcement provisions of the bill. ([Attachment 2](#))

The following proponents also testified before the committee along with their required written testimony.

Ed Hayes, Minutemen of Kansas, Olathe, Kansas ([Attachment 3](#))  
Roger Thomas, Assistant Director Minutemen of Kansas and Missouri ([Attachment 4](#))  
Paul Degener, Concerned Citizen ([Attachment 5](#))  
Lana Reed, Concerned Citizen, former SRS Employee, Kansas Resident ([Attachment 6](#))  
Dale Chaffee, Union of Patriots, Shawnee, Ks ([Attachment 7](#))  
Stephen Shute, Gardner, Kansas, Executive Director of Hope for America Coalition ([Attachment 8](#))  
Larry Halloron, Wichita South Central Kansas 912 Group ([Attachment 9](#))  
Jeffrey Locke, Arma, Kansas, Citizen ([Attachment 10](#))  
Tom Stoffers, Tonganoxie, Kansas ([Attachment 11](#))  
Kathy Brown, Esquire, Kansas City ([Attachment 12](#))

The following proponents provided written testimony only in support of the bill:

Ken Dunwoody, Johnson County ([Attachment 13](#))  
Catherine E. Sanderson, Roeland Park, Kansas ([Attachment 14](#))

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John Gambill, Citizen, Overland Park, Kansas ([Attachment 15](#))

Roger Wood, Citizen of Pittsburg, Kansas ([Attachment 16](#))

Eric Stafford, Senior Director of Government Affairs, presented testimony before the committee as a neutral, stating problems for businesses working in multi-states. He also proposed an amendment to the bill to designate “only for new hires”. ([Attachment 17](#))

Ed Klumpp, presented written only testimony, as a neutral on behalf of the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, Kansas Sheriffs Association and Kansas Peace Officers Association. ([Attachment 18](#))

Allie Devine, Vice President and General Counsel for the Kansas Livestock Association and also appearing on behalf of the Kansas Business Coalition (a list of businesses/organizations included in written testimony), addressed the committee in strong opposition of the bill. She stated the coalition supports and incorporates the comments of Mr. Todd Landfried, Arizona Employers for Immigration Reform; Ms. Dina Cox, Society of Human Resource Management; and, Mr. Mike Taylor, Unified Government of Wyandotte County, Kansas. She stated the coalition does not condone or support the hiring of undocumented workers, and their organizations work closely with members to assist in compliance with existing federal immigration laws, and also stated that their members want and need a strong reliable work force. She provided several reasons why the coalition objects to this bill: 1) Immigration issues are the domain of the federal government, 2) This bill does nothing to address ongoing national problems with immigration, 3) The bill places new requirements on businesses without providing any training or funding, 4) Establishes a climate of distrust and suspicion that will breach trust between law enforcement and communities, government and regulated entities, business and the public. She stated these provisions disrupt the economic stability of the state and will result in economic loss. She also offered, on behalf of the coalition, some strategies for addressing immediate immigration issues in lieu of passage of this bill. ([Attachment 19](#))

The following opponents also testified before the committee along with their required written testimony:

Todd Landfried, Business Coalition, Arizona Employers For Immigration Reform ([Attachment 20](#))

Dina Cox, Legislative Director, Kansas State Council of the Society for Human Resource Management(KS SHRM) ([Attachment 21](#))

Mike Taylor, United Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City ([Attachment 22](#))

Angela Ferguson, American Lawyer Immigration Association ([Attachment 23](#))

Sandy Jacquot, League of Kansas Municipalities ([Attachment 24](#))

Laurie Anderson, Immigration Justice Advocacy Movement ([Attachment 25](#))

Leo Prieto, Policy Director for the State League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) ([Attachment 26](#))

Virginia Mendoza, LULAC Topeka, Kansas ([Attachment 27](#))

Holly Weatherford, ACLU of Kansas & Western Missouri ([Attachment 28](#))

Allen Rostron, Professor of Law, UMKC ([Attachment 29](#))

Nancy Jorn, a Concerned Health Care Professional, Lawrence ([Attachment 30](#))

Ricardo Quinones, Kansas Missouri Dream Alliance ([Attachment 31](#))

Jeanne Gorman Rau, Attorney, presenting on behalf of the Kansas Catholic Bishops ([Attachment 32](#))

Jim Edwards, Kansas Association of School Boards ([Attachment 33](#))

Desima Dawdy, Topeka Citizen ([Attachment 34](#))

Carlos Gomez, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Greater Kansas City ([Attachment 35](#))

Lalo Munoz, Citizen ([Attachment 36](#))

Patrick Freeland, Haskell Indian Nations University, Lawrence, Kansas ([Attachment 37](#))

Michelle Cuevas-Stubblefield, Individual, Topeka, Kansas ([Attachment 38](#))

Jacob Kipp, Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence, presented by Susan Cooper ([Attachment 39](#))

Stephen Germes, Citizen, Topeka ([Attachment 40](#))

Kim Morse Cordova ([Attachment 41](#))

Rudy Padilla, Overland Park, Kansas ([Attachment 42](#))

### Opponents-Written Only

Thomas Hongslo, Lenexa Police Department ([Attachment 43](#))

Cathy Harding, Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved ([Attachment 44](#))

Amber Versola, Kansas NOW ([Attachment 45](#))

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Ron Hein, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Tribal Council ([Attachment 46](#))

Suzanne Germes, Citizen, Topeka ([Attachment 47](#))

Joan Porter ([Attachment 48](#))

Joyce Grover, Executive Director, Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence  
([Attachment 49](#))

Jennifer Ciszewski, Citizen ([Attachment 50](#))

Silvia Romero, Citizen ([Attachment 51](#))

Gerald L. Albright ([Attachment 52](#))

Reverend Judy R. Voss, Shawnee, Kansas ([Attachment 53](#))

Michelle DeLa Isla, Topeka, Kansas ([Attachment 54](#))

Craig L. Salvay, Prairie Village, Kansas ([Attachment 55](#))

Stephen Wertz, Lake Quivira, Kansas ([Attachment 56](#))

Dr. Andy Tompkins, Kansas Board of Regents ([Attachment 57](#))

The next meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.