

March 12, 2022

Dear Chairman Barker, Ranking Member Ruiz, and Committee Members

Thank you for allowing testimony regarding **HB 2717**.

I strongly oppose this bill. In my written testimony that follows I will explain my opposition.

Many years of my life have been associated in various ways with Wyandotte County. My Mom was an RN at Providence Hospital, Dad worked as a barber in Argentine, my aunt and uncle operated a produce company near 18th and Central, and we had many relatives living in Wyandotte County.

I taught elementary school for 15 years in the Turner District, I've volunteered after retirement in the Argentine area at the UMC clothing and food pantry, and at Crosslines food kitchen. I've also volunteered at New Stanley elementary school in Argentine helping at risk students.

I feel very strongly about the people involved in the Safe and Welcoming Wyandotte Act after all of my experiences and knowledge of the area.

The municipality of Wyandotte County; the residents, the elected commissioners, the mayor, all have labored together to come to a consensus to present and pass the Safe and Welcoming Wyandotte Act. This Act would provide the protection, safety and advancement for those most vulnerable; the hard-working, individuals and families striving to make a living and to educate their children.

HB 2717 revokes a dream for those folks trying their best to make it safe and feel protected and understood in Wyandotte County. What a gift they are to the community, and what a disservice HB 2717 is to those needing our support and recognition.

I encourage you to reject and oppose HB 2717. Do not send it on to Committee.

Thank you for considering my testimony

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