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SB446
WRITTEN ONLY

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PRIVATE CITIZEN

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on SB 446 with you today. My name is Aude Negrete and I am a voter in Johnson County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on SB 446

This bill is vague and puts our economy at risk and the rights of Kansans in danger . By targeting "foreign nationals" with broad strokes the bill has unintended consequences that need to be addressed by the federal government through comprehensive immigration reform. Trying to patch a federal broken system through state policy puts our community and our rights in danger.

Like many Kansans, I am an immigrant. Immigration is complicated and there are many permits, visas, and process time our immigrants may get over many years. This bill simply doesn't address or take into account the many hard working immigrants and Latino business owners who are contributing to the Kansas economy and don't represent a foreign government yet they are stuck in our broken immigration system's waiting game.

In 2021 alone, Hispanic and Latino-owned businesses represented over 1,500 companies, and employed over 13,000 Kasans, contributing to our workforce – and our historically low unemployment rate.

-That's nearly \$500 million in payroll injected into the Kansas economy.

-Businesses that were equally owned by Hispanic/Latino and non-Hispanic/Latino owners represented another 300 companies with over 2,000 Kansas employees – over \$60 million in payroll.

-In total, there was an average of 71,200 Hispanic/Latino hard-working Kansans in our workforce.

Our state and our community deserves policy that doesn't have a negative impact in our communities and our economy.

National security is a serious matter that deserves to be addressed with a bill that is narrow and clear and that won't have unintended consequences.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SB 446.