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Tuesday, November 7, 2006

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10/17/2006 7:27:22 PM

Carlin's approach to immigration makes sense, benefits Kansans

To the Editor:

As the Mercury editorial pointed out Oct. 6, the problem of illegal aliens is a federal problem that will not be solved by building a wall. There are, however, some solutions available to the state, and Rep. Sydney Carlin has voted for legislation that she believes would be more effective in correcting the problem.

It is understandable that the availability of jobs draws immigrants to our state. We could cut down on the number of illegals by reducing the job market. Even though it is against the law to hire illegals, some businesses ignore the law so they can benefit by paying lower wages. For this reason Rep. Carlin has voted to increase the penalties for employers who knowingly break the law. She has also voted to prohibit employers convicted of hiring illegal aliens from qualifying for state contracts and padding their pockets even more by gaining taxpayer money.

As to in-state tuition for immigrant children, Carlin voted for the restrictive law that applies only to children who have attended three years of high school in Kansas, who are in the process of becoming U.S. citizens and who are academically qualified for admission. It makes economic sense to educate these potential new citizens so that they can become economically independent and not burden the welfare system. Carlin's common-sense approach, held by the Catholic Conference, the Methodist Conference and the Salvation Army, makes sense to me. Let's return a long-time resident who is not only experienced and thoughtful but also able to work with members of both parties in the



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