

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak.

I oppose HB 2448 because it is unnecessary and discriminatory. It is a solution in search of a problem that doesn't exist. Kansas has been down this road before. Policies built on suspicion instead of evidence have led to exclusion, costly litigation, and harm to eligible residents. We should not repeat those mistakes.

More importantly, this bill creates two classes of people who live in Kansas. By placing status directly on a driver's license, HB 2448 would single out lawful residents and immigrants who are here legally, who work, pay taxes, and contribute to our communities.

With increased ICE activity and widespread fear in immigrant communities, like what's happening in Minnesota, this bill sends a dangerous message. It tells people that the state of Kansas is willing to turn a driver's license into a tool beyond its intended purpose. When people are afraid to drive, to carry ID, or to interact with institutions, public safety and trust suffer.

This bill is discriminatory, unnecessary, and dangerous. I oppose it.