

Legislative Testimony

In **Opposition** to HB 2448
House Committee on Elections
January 29, 2026

In Person Testimony

Chair Proctor and Members of the Committee,

My name is Logan DeMond, and I am the Director of Policy and Research at the American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas. The ACLU of Kansas is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with more than 35,000 supporters statewide that works to protect and strengthen the civil rights and liberties of all Kansans. On behalf of the ACLU of Kansas, I strongly oppose House Bill 2448, which would require citizenship status to be listed on Kansas driver's licenses. This reckless legislation does not strengthen election security, nor does it address any demonstrated vulnerabilities in Kansas's elections. Rather, it is part of much larger, coordinated attack on civil rights and immigrant communities, raising serious concerns regarding privacy, discrimination, and public safety.

Threats to Privacy, Civil Liberties, and Public Safety

HB 2448 creates yet another mechanism through which individuals may be pressured—explicitly or implicitly—to disclose their citizenship or immigration status in everyday interactions where that information is irrelevant. Driver's licenses are used as primary identification in nearly every aspect of daily life: applying for a job, renting an apartment, picking up prescriptions, opening a bank account, or simply verifying age or identity. Requiring citizenship status to appear on driver's licenses would expose this personal information to employers, landlords, businesses, law enforcement, and private individuals—all contexts in which a person's citizenship status is completely unnecessary.

This unnecessary disclosure invites discrimination and profiling and creates a two-tiered system of identification that treats people differently based on immigration status rather than their legal right to drive. Most members of the public—and many frontline workers—do not understand the complex distinctions between citizenship, permanent residency, temporary visas, and humanitarian protections. This legislation does not make it clear how the various classifications would be distinguished, either. This lack of understanding and clarity increases the likelihood of misinterpretation, bias, and wrongful treatment. Kansas residents should not be required to disclose sensitive citizenship information to simply exist in our communities.

At a time when border patrol agents are wielding unprecedented control and wreaking havoc over a growing number of cities across the country, this legislation hands these agents and local law enforcement another tool to identify and target individuals who pose no threat to their communities simply because of their citizenship status, threatening public safety. The public is best served when all drivers are properly licensed, insured, and trained, but this legislation

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introduces an element of fear that will discourage individuals from seeking or maintaining valid licenses, undermining the safety of our roads. When people fear that applying for a license will expose them or their family members to scrutiny or discrimination, they may avoid the licensing system altogether, creating problems far beyond the scope of this committee.

No benefit to Election Integrity

This bill does nothing to meaningfully improve election integrity. Kansas already has strong, well-established safeguards in place to ensure that only eligible voters participate in elections. There is no credible evidence that non-citizen voting occurs in Kansas at any meaningful scale, nor that existing systems are failing to detect or prevent it. Rather than strengthening confidence in elections, HB 2448 risks eroding public trust by promoting the false narrative that widespread fraud exists and that extreme measures are necessary to prevent it.

Moreover, tying citizenship status to driver's licenses does not address how citizens register or vote. Voting eligibility is determined through voter registration processes, not through routine identification documents. Even if citizenship status were displayed on a license, it would not replace existing verification systems, nor would it prevent ineligible individuals from attempting to register.

This legislation brings Kansas one step closer to repeating familiar attacks on tens-of-thousands of eligible citizens who attempted to register to vote following the 2011 law that required proof of citizenship and barred them from doing so. There was little evidence of a widespread problem in 2018 when this law was struck down, and there remains little evidence today (*Fish v. Kobach*, 2018). Taking this unnecessary step not only risks damaging the credibility of Kansas's elections in the court of public opinion but subjecting the state to costly litigation and near certain defeat once again.

Conclusion

This legislation does not seek to secure or strengthen elections but to unnecessarily identify the various circumstances under which individuals reside in Kansas. If this legislation becomes law, law-abiding individuals risk being subjected to unfair treatment. This attempt to identify non-citizens and discriminate against them is not isolated either, and it is up to the members of this committee to recognize the threats it would pose.

HB 2448 is an unnecessary and harmful proposal that fails to strengthen public safety, election integrity, or good governance. It exposes Kansans to increased discrimination, undermines privacy, and discourages lawful participation in the licensing system. This legislation does not

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respond to a real problem, and it does not improve the systems it claims to protect. Rather, it creates new risks for lawful residents, weakens public trust in public institutions, and diverts limited state resources away from more effective and responsible solutions.

For these reasons, on behalf of the ACLU of Kansas, I respectfully urge this committee to reject HB 2448.

Logan DeMond
Director of Policy and Research

References

Fish v. Kobach, 309 F. Supp. 3d 1048 (D. Kan. 2018).