

Kansas Hispanic & Latino American
Affairs Commission
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Irma Faudoa, Executive Director

Laura Kelly, Governor

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

We write to respectfully urge you to oppose House Bill 2448, which would require Kansas driver's licenses and state identification cards to visibly indicate citizenship status. While the intent may be framed as an election-integrity measure, the practical effect of this bill would be to create unnecessary risk, discrimination, and government overreach—without addressing a documented problem in Kansas.

Kansas already has one of the strongest driver's license verification systems in the country. Proof of lawful presence is required to obtain a Kansas driver's license or state ID, and undocumented individuals are not eligible. This existing process already ensures that licenses are issued only to those who meet federal and state legal requirements. HB 2448 does not close a loophole or correct a failure in the system—it duplicates requirements that are already in place.

This risk is especially high in rural Kansas, where driving is necessary and a driver's license is often the only accepted ID. Fear over identification can cause people to avoid driving or essential services, which undermines public safety. Policies that reduce trust between residents and law enforcement lead to less cooperation and fewer reported crimes. Public safety relies on trust, not fear.

HB 2448 also presents significant issues regarding racial and ethnic profiling. Because citizenship status can't be determined just by appearance, indicating it on identification opens the door to arbitrary enforcement and unequal treatment. As a result, Kansas and its local governments could face civil rights lawsuits and expensive legal disputes, which would impose needless costs on taxpayers. Kansas has long valued individual liberty, personal responsibility, and community trust. HB 2448 moves us away from those principles by embedding status-based distinctions into a document meant to enable daily life—not restrict it.

We urge you to reject HB 2448 and support policies that strengthen election security, public safety, and community well-being without causing harm.

Respectfully,

Geovannie Gone, LMAC, MS
Chair of the Kansas Hispanic Latino American Affairs Commission

Members of the KHLAAC Commission:

Commissioner Yeni Silva-Renteria Vice-Chair
Commissioner Dr. Rocio DelAguila Secretary
Commissioner Ernestor De La Rosa
Commissioner Derek Ramos
Commissioner Veronica Padilla
Commissioner MaryLou Jaramillo