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Oral Testimony by Rabbi Moti Rieber in Opposition to HB 2448, Requiring citizenship status be listed on driver's licenses.

House Elections Committee, Rep. Pat Proctor, Chair - January 29, 2026

Mr. Chair, Members of the Committee:

I serve as Executive Director for Kansas Interfaith Action, a statewide, multifaitth issue-advocacy organization that “puts faith into action” on a variety of important social and economic justice issues. We work with many of the Mainline denominations in Kansas, including the local judicatories of the ELCA Lutheran Church, the United Church of Christ, and the United Methodist Church, and with hundreds of congregations and thousands of people of faith in Kansas. I rise today in opposition to HB 2448.

In our eyes there are only two reasons to pass a bill like this: the first is based on the disproven idea that non-citizens are trying to vote. It is worth repeating, over and over: despite the incessant fearmongering on this issue, ***there is no evidence of widespread voter fraud in Kansas, by non-citizens or otherwise.*** Therefore this bill is attempting to solve a problem that we know doesn't exist.

And the second reason would be to make it easier for law enforcement to know someone's immigration status for the purpose of referral to ICE or CPB enforcement. Given the racist, violent, and lawless way immigration is currently being policed in this country, this would put any non-citizen motorist, whatever their legal status, in grave jeopardy.

We at KIFA, and the denominations and congregations that we partner with, advocate for a compassionate and fair immigration process, and we take seriously Scripture's instruction to care for the foreigner, as it says in Leviticus:

When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God. — Leviticus 19:33-34

We are guided by the idea (taken from our faiths) that every person possesses inherent dignity and that our laws should reflect a commitment to the common good and the protection of the vulnerable. This bill flies in the face of that, fostering exclusion and fear, and eerily echoing late thirties and early forties Europe, where Jews were made to wear yellow stars publicly as an “ID of the other.” We do not need anything like that in Kansas.

As people of faith, we believe in laws that unite communities, not those that mark “the other” for suspicion. This bill could put some of our most vulnerable neighbors in jeopardy, while doing nothing about the non-existent “problem” of non-citizen voting. Its effects would be completely negative, without any positive result, either for the residents of Kansans, or for our elections. We urge you to vote NO on HB 2448.

Thank you.