

Matthew Obold-Geary  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
HB 2448 Opponent  
1/29/2026

Chair Proctor and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2448 with you today. My name is Matthew Obold-Geary, and I am a voter in Johnson County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2448"

Mandating citizenship status on driver's licenses targets individuals based on a personal characteristic and can lead to discrimination and stigmatization of groups within our communities. Many lawful non-citizens contribute to Kansas's economy, culture, and civic life. Requiring a citizenship marker on a widely used identity document could invite profiling in routine interactions with law enforcement, landlords, employers, or service providers.

There is no demonstrated need for a citizenship field on state IDs to ensure secure elections or public safety. Kansas already has systems in place to verify voter eligibility — including citizenship — at the time of voter registration. Adding this information to driver's licenses could create a false sense of security while exposing the state to unintended legal and administrative costs.

Driver's licenses are one of the most commonly used forms of identification in everyday life. Embedding sensitive information, such as citizenship status, increases the risk that this information could be misused or improperly disclosed, particularly if adequate data protections are not fully established and funded. The more personal data on a license, the greater the potential harm if that data is lost, stolen, or accessed without consent.

Creating a two-tiered sense of identity can discourage community members from engaging fully in public life — including work, travel, and interactions with governmental services. Some residents might avoid applying for state IDs altogether if they fear that personal information like citizenship status could be exposed or misused, which could reduce mobility and participation in civic life.

Implementing citizenship status on licenses would require changes to DMV systems, staff training, and potentially new verification procedures. Without a clear public benefit that outweighs these costs, this bill risks diverting resources from higher-priority services that Kansans rely on.

For the reasons outlined, discrimination risk, lack of clear benefit, privacy concerns, and cost implications, I urge this Committee to vote against HB 2448. Thank you.