

Yeni Silva Renteria
Private Citizen
HB 2448 Opponent
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My Name is Yeni Silva Renteria and I am a voter in Wichita, Sedgwick County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2448

Chair and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

I want to begin by saying that Kansans across the political spectrum agree on two things: we value secure elections, and we value fair, limited government that focuses on real, measurable problems facing families.

I respectfully oppose HB 2448 because, while well-intentioned, it does not meaningfully improve election security, and it creates consequences that extend far beyond elections.

Kansas already does not issue driver's licenses or state IDs to undocumented individuals.

Under both Kansas law and federal REAL ID requirements, individuals must already prove their citizenship or lawful presence to obtain a driver's license. Kansans have spent the past several years upgrading to REAL ID, bringing extensive documentation proving their citizenship to meet those standards. I know some of us in the room have braved the long-waiting times at the DMV to get those little gold stars at the top right corners of our REAL IDs.

That means citizenship is determined before a license is issued. Voting eligibility is verified through voter registration systems, not through markings on a driver's license.

In practice, this bill does not close a gap. It adds a label.

The question before us is not whether election integrity matters. It without a doubt does. The question is whether marking citizenship status on a driver's license is necessary, effective, or limited in scope. I don't believe it is.

A driver's license is used dozens of times a week in ordinary life: traffic stops, banking, employment verification, renting housing, picking up prescriptions. Adding a citizenship marker turns a general-purpose ID into something that can invite confusion, profiling, or unequal treatment, especially for naturalized citizens who are fully eligible voters and fully contributing Kansans.

That is not a hypothetical concern; it is an unintended consequence of expanding what government requires to be disclosed in everyday interactions.

I would also encourage the committee to consider priorities. Kansas families are feeling real economic pressure right now.

According to recent Kansas data:

- In Kansas, housing prices and rents have risen significantly over the past several years, contributing to affordability challenges for many families.
- Childcare costs now rival rent in many counties, particularly for working families.
- Utility costs and property taxes continue to climb, squeezing seniors and rural households on fixed incomes.
- And from the personal “data” from members of my community, we’re struggling to feed our families these days without nickel and diming everything thanks to the rising cost of groceries.

These are the issues Kansans raise at kitchen tables and not the markings on a driver’s license.

From a traditional perspective, this bill also expands government involvement in places where it isn’t needed. It adds administrative complexity and unnecessarily advertises personal information without a clear public safety or fiscal benefit.

I know we can protect election integrity without expanding government labeling and without diverting attention from affordability and economic stability.

For those reasons, I respectfully ask the committee to vote ‘no’ on HB 2448 and focus legislative efforts on policies that make Kansas more affordable, more competitive, and stronger for working families.

Thank you for your time.

Dr. Yeni Silva Renteria