

Samiya Rasheed
Private citizen
HB 2448 Opponent
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Chair Proctor and members of the committee, I appreciate your time. My name is Samiya Rasheed and I am a voter in Douglas County. I am writing to encourage you all to vote NO on HB 2448.

This bill seems shortsighted in how it would be implemented. There is no clear structure for thousands of Kansans to get new licenses denoting their citizenship status. It would be a huge burden on individuals, costly for Kansans and the state, and problematic for eligible Kansans to vote in November. The identification we have is already adequate--it shows all the information needed to identify someone and verify their identity and ability to drive. In elections, these ID's can already be used to compare to secure voter registration without the additional step of adding citizenship. This bill would prove costly and cumbersome for no benefit.

In fact, this bill will do harm. Again, the unclear process of how this would be rolled out and at what speeds will stop eligible Kansans from participating in our democracy in November. It too, will open non-citizens up to discrimination. We know that anti-immigrant rhetoric--regardless of legal status in the US--is on the rise. Having citizenship declared on licenses is not necessary to ensure fair elections, but it will expose non-citizens to harm and discrimination when they need to use these IDs.

I remember my parents being told to "Go back to your country" in my childhood. Gaining citizenship did not change our visible status as minorities, but it did grant us the peace of mind that we have better legal protection and frankly social support if we faced discrimination. But there were many years where they did not have that status and situations where having that so obviously declared would embolden people to act out. With the current moment our country is in, I'm very afraid of the consequences this bill would have.

Thank you once again for your time. I once again ask you all to vote no on HB 2448.