

January 29, 2026

Kansas House Committee on Elections
300 SW. 10th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: Health Forward Foundation opposition to HCR 5021: Amending article 5 of the constitution of the state of Kansas to require voters to present photographic identification at the time of voting.

Chair Proctor and members of the House Committee on Elections:

On behalf of the Health Forward Foundation (Health Forward), I submit this letter of testimony in opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 5021 which proposes amending the state constitution to require voters to present photographic identification to vote. An individual's ability to exercise their right to vote plays a key role in shaping one's living conditions and the communities in which they live; our aim should be to make voting more accessible, not create unnecessary barriers. A Kansas law, passed in 2011, currently requires voters to present a valid photo ID. Placing the voter ID requirements in the state constitution only serves to make it more challenging to increase access and accessibility to voting in response to technology advancements (or constraints, local or national emergencies, etc.) In instances that require Kansas to be adaptable, it'll be significantly more challenged to do so.

Additionally, this legislation further restricts the types of IDs that can be used to vote. According to HCR 5021, the photo ID must be issued by the state or federal government, while current law allows for the use of college IDs and out-of-state IDs. There is no certainty that there will continue to be important exceptions like those that allow seniors to use an expired ID or Indigenous voters whose tribal ID may not include a photo or an expiration date. HCR 5021 will increase barriers to voting by making it harder to obtain an approved voter ID.

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The Health and Democracy Index highlights a distinct relationship between inclusive voting and the overall health outcomes of communities: where healthier states have more inclusive voting policies and greater levels of participation.ⁱ HCR 5021 will negatively impact the health of Kansas as it increases barriers to voting and will hinder personal ability to vote for the issues and candidates that advance our health.

Health Forward asks members of the committee to vote no on HCR 5021. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like additional resources at eshankland@healthforward.org. We would welcome the opportunity to remain engaged with you on this issue.

Sincerely,
Emma Shankland
Impact Strategist – Policy
Health Forward Foundation

ⁱ "Advancing Health Equity Through Voter Participation." The Network for Public Health Law. August 2022. Accessed at <https://www.networkforphl.org/news-insights/advancing-health-equity-through-voter-participation/>.