

January 29, 2026

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

Re: Health Forward Foundation opposition House Bill 2448: requiring citizenship to be listed on the driver's licenses

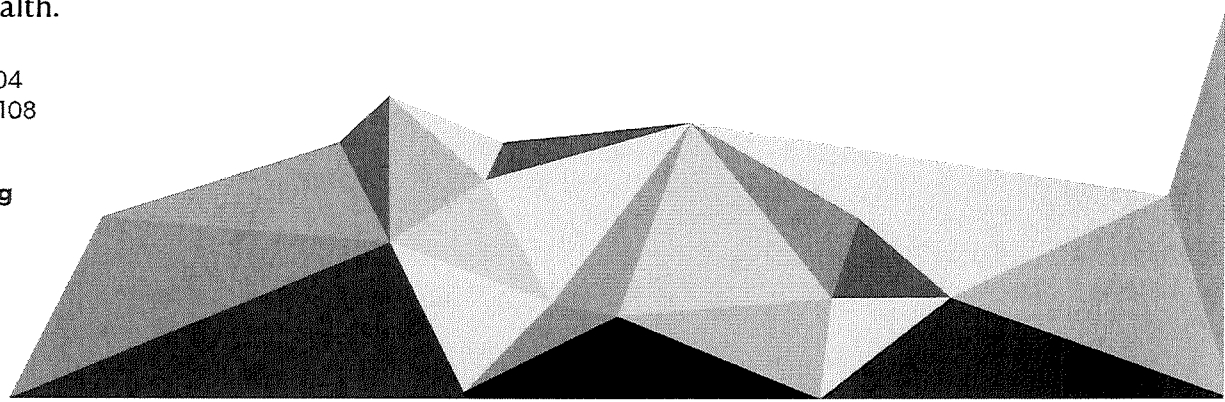
Chair Proctor and members of the House Committee on Elections:

On behalf of Health Forward Foundation (Health Forward), I submit this letter of testimony in opposition to House Bill 2448 which requires citizenship status to be listed on driver's licenses. Health Forward is a health foundation focused on equitable health care access and outcomes. We oppose this bill because it will increase barriers to obtaining a valid driver's license which will increase barriers to voting.

Access to a driver's license impacts an individual's access to services, ability to freely move around their community, and ability to engage meaningfully in their communities, including voting.ⁱ This bill will restrict these freedoms for Kansans who do not get a driver's license due to privacy-related or other concerns about displaying their citizenship status.

According to the Health and Democracy Index, there is a distinct relationship between healthier states and inclusive voting policies and voter participation. Driver's licenses are one of the main forms of identification used for voting. As a result, access to driver's licenses directly impacts access to voting. HB 2448 will negatively impact the health of Kansas as it increases barriers to voting and will hinder the ability of Kansans to vote for the issues and candidates that advance our health.

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Health Forward asks members of the committee to vote no on HB 2448. Please contact eshankland@healthforward.org if you have any questions or would like additional resources. 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/>.