

Thrive Allen County, Policy Coordinator
HCR 5021 Opposition Testimony
1/29/2026

Chair Proctor and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to this bill. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HCR 2051. Thrive Allen County and Thrive Kansas' mission is to ensure that our rural communities have access to the resources they need to improve health outcomes, so that everyone in our communities can thrive. One way that we encourage our community to improve their health outcomes is to become civically engaged. And one of the most accessible way they can become civically engaged is to vote.

HCR 5021 makes the ability to participate in voting unnecessarily tedious as well as potentially restricting the ability for thousands of Kansas to vote. As it currently stands, there are a host of photo identification that individuals can present in order to vote in Kansas. Because of these options, they allow people the ability to vote using identification that has already been verified that the person in possession of the identification is who they say they are. Changing the Kansas Constitution is not a decision that should be made lightly. As it currently stands, the approved photo identification used to verify a person is who they say they are prior to voting is a system that functions and functions well. Our elections are not in any jeopardy of fraud from people who are ineligible to vote. Our elections are secure.

Passing HCR 5021 would not make our election any more secure but rather render them to be more inaccessible. The potential to restrict specific forms of photo identification that are currently eligible for use of photo identification before voting disenfranchising Kansans that are want to vote. They want to have their voice heard and they want to actively participate in civic matters. Passing legislation that would make it difficult if not impossible for them to vote does not equate to safer elections. It equates to constituents not being heard and represented well.

Again, thank you all for hearing my thoughts and concerns on this bill. I strongly urge you all to vote no on the passage of HCR 5021. Thank you.