

PRIVATE CITIZEN

HCR 5021 Opposition Testimony

1/29/2026

Chair Proctor and Members of the Committee, thank you for reading my thoughts on HCR 5021 today. My name is Melinda Parks and I am a voter in Johnson County. I am writing today to urge the committee members to vote NO on HCR 2051.

This bill would serve as a voter suppression tactic. As a married person, I have changed my name. This may cause me to have to have my marriage license in order to vote. For many of us, we have that information. But so many of our citizens, both young and old, don't have that information. Recently, my father-in-law is 89 and was told his record of birth wasn't valid. He was born at home with his parents and a local doctor. The registrar's office wanted a witness to his birth in order to issue an official birth certificate. Clearly his parents and the doctor present at his birth were no longer alive. My husband fought through the red tape, contacted the local county office and was able to get his birth certificate re-issued. But not all elderly persons have family or friends who are able to serve that role.

Our very democracy was built on the power of the vote by the people. This goes against everything we in the state of Kansas and the United States of America stand for.

Thank you for your consideration. I strongly urge each of you to vote NO on HCR 2051.