

PRIVATE CITIZEN

HCR 5021 Opposition Testimony

1/29/2026

Thank you Chair Proctor and Members of the Committee for allowing me to share my thoughts on HCR 5021 with you. My name is Holly Bartlett and I am a voter in Shawnee County/Topeka. I would like to encourage this committee to vote NO on HCR 2051.

I oppose this bill because it doesn't seem like much thought was put into it, and changing the constitution is a big deal. Any changes made should be carefully considered and should only happen out of true necessity. This feels like a solution to a problem we don't have. To support this, I would need to see evidence of voter fraud as I have not been able to find sources that show any significant levels. But we know that many folks who are eligible to vote will suddenly find it more difficult. Many people no longer have appropriate documentation. It can be costly to replace lost documents, and in this current economy, who can afford that? Some people aren't able to travel to where they can gain access to documents. Some people don't have internet access or a good understanding of how to use it. If a person has changed their name, gotten married, gotten divorced, the number of documents needed continues to grow. These are just a few of the reasons people will find it difficult to vote.

How much will it cost to make these changes? Will everyone have to register again? Will people be informed, or just show up at the polls, only to find out too late that they were kicked off the list? Will there be a reasonable amount of time for people to obtain eligible IDs, or is the intention to rush this through quickly, close to an election, with the hope that "less than" voters won't be prepared in time? Didn't Kansas try this before and it was a huge failure?

At any rate, I feel the harm outweighs any benefit. It also disproportionately disadvantages the poor, the elderly, the disabled, and women. All eligible citizens should be both allowed to and encouraged to vote. I will never be in favor of any bill that makes it harder to do so, especially without any real proof of benefit. There are many ways that time, energy and money could be spent to make Kansas better. This is not one of them.

Once again, I appreciate you giving me the opportunity to share my thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you to vote no on the passage of HCR 2051. Thank you.