

Alejandro Rangel-Lopez
Private Citizen
HB 2448 Opponent
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Chair Proctor and Members of the Committee, thank you for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2448 with you today. My name is Alejandro Rangel-Lopez and I am a voter in Dodge City. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2448.

This will be used to deny Kansans their rights. In particular, immigrants of any status citizen or not will be the ones targeted for this "papers please" bill. I think it's okay to say the quiet part out loud in this situation: this information on IDs legitimizes the idea that folks living in the U.S. are subject to show ID at the behest of anyone, regardless of whether they're being accused of a crime or not. This is a horrible precedent to set and does nothing to make our elections more secure. This legislation has no process outlined for how often this information will be updated or take into consideration how the state government updates in immigration status or when a current citizen is able to submit their documentation to prove their status. This will inevitably result in citizens being unjustly denied their right to vote. The chair of this committee seems to think that one non-citizen voting is justification enough to effectively deny the right to vote to thousands of citizens who want to engage in the most fundamental civic process to our democracy.

We know what's happening here. This is the first of a three step plan to bring back Documentary Proof of Citizenship to Kansas, which was struck down by the courts as unconstitutional because it disenfranchised over 30,000 Kansans voters. They want to change voting rules and make it more complicated for eligible Kansans to cast their ballot. Once again, I thank you all for hearing my thoughts on this bill. I urge you to stand with Kansans and vote NO on the passage of HB 2448. Thank you.