

Chair and Members of the Kansas House
Elections Committee,

My name is Ashley Heidebrecht. I am a
constituent and a social worker. I
respectfully submit this testimony in
strong opposition to HB 2491.

HB 2491 does not improve public safety or
government accountability. Instead, it
expands unnecessary government
surveillance, harms families, and misuses
public resources without evidence that
fraud or misuse is occurring. This bill
would require state agencies to report the
names and home addresses of non-
citizens who receive public funds,
scholarships, or other publicly funded
benefits to the Secretary of State every
quarter, yet it provides no clear safeguards
for how this sensitive personal data would

be stored, shared, protected, or used. Creating a statewide reporting system focused on immigration status invites fear, misinformation, and mistrust of public institutions, especially for immigrant and mixed-status families who already live with daily uncertainty.

As a social worker, I see firsthand how policies rooted in suspicion rather than evidence push people away from the very services designed to support health, education, and family stability. When families fear that accessing lawful and essential services could expose them or their loved ones to surveillance or targeting, they are less likely to seek help—even when their children are legally eligible and desperately need support. This does not make our communities safer. It makes them more isolated, more vulnerable, and

less connected to schools, health care providers, and community programs. It is important to ground this discussion in facts. Undocumented immigrants are already ineligible for most public benefits. U.S. citizen children remain eligible for public programs regardless of their parents' immigration status. Immigrants use public benefits at lower rates than U.S.-born citizens, and at the same time, immigrants contribute billions of dollars in state and local taxes into systems they often cannot access themselves. HB 2491 offers no evidence of widespread fraud that would justify creating a new reporting and surveillance mandate over an entire group of people.

Rather than improving accountability, this bill redirects limited public resources toward collecting and maintaining

sensitive personal data, while increasing fear in communities that are already heavily targeted and misunderstood. It risks chilling participation in education programs, health services, and other publicly funded initiatives that exist to strengthen Kansas families and communities.

Kansas deserves policies rooted in facts, dignity, and genuine community safety, not in fear, stigma, or the unnecessary tracking of people who are already complying with the law. As a social worker committed to ethical practice, family well-being, and community stability, I urge you to reject HB 2491 and choose policies that strengthen trust, protect families, and invest in the health and future of all Kansans.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ashley Heidebrecht, LMSW
Wichita, KS 67220

