

Verbal Opponent Testimony on House Bill 2491
House Committee on Elections
Thursday, February 5, 2026
Christine Osterlund, Deputy Secretary of Agency Integration and Medicaid Director
Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Chairman Proctor and Members of the House Committee on Elections,

Thank you for the opportunity for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Division of Health Care Finance (KDHE-DHCF) to provide opponent testimony on House Bill 2491, which would require all Kansas state agencies that provide public funds, scholarships, or other publicly funded benefits to noncitizens to submit a quarterly report to the Kansas Secretary of State. Each report must include the name and address of every noncitizen who received such benefits during the reporting period.

Section [1902\(a\)\(7\)](#) of the Social Security act, as well as [42 CFR 431-300 – 431.305](#), require states to “provide safeguards that restrict the use or disclosure of information concerning applicants and beneficiaries to purposes directly connected with the administration of the plan.”

Purposes directly related to plan administration include:

- Establishing eligibility.
- Determining the amount of medical assistance.
- Providing services for beneficiaries.
- Conducting or assisting an investigation, prosecution, or civil or criminal proceeding related to the administration of the plan.

Types of information to be safeguarded include:

- Names and addresses.
- Medical services provided.
- Social and economic conditions or circumstances.
- Agency evaluation of personal information.
- Medical data, including diagnosis and past history of disease or disability.
- Any information received for verifying income eligibility and amount of medical assistance payments.

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- Any information received in connection with the identification of legally liable third-party resources.
- Social Security Numbers.

The above-referenced statute and regulations prohibit Kansas Medicaid from releasing names and addresses of noncitizens to the Secretary of State, despite HB 2491 requiring it. Releasing this information would violate federal law and put federal Medicaid funding at risk. I respectfully request the Committee not take action on HB 2491 because of the significant risk the bill poses.