

Alejandro Rangel-Lopez
New Frontiers, a project of Loud Light Civic Action
Oral Opponent Testimony of HB 2491
For the House Elections Committee

February 5th, 2026

Chair Proctor and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. My name is Alejandro Rangel-Lopez from Dodge City, and I am speaking to you today as the Campaign Manager of New Frontiers. We're a southwest Kansas based project of the nonpartisan, nonprofit organization Loud Light Civic Action. New Frontiers' mission is to empower young southwest Kansans through the values of dignity, belonging, and freedom. I'm here representing over 500 Kansans who have signed on to this project. I'm here today to urge you to oppose the passage of HB 2491 as it might result in the needless surveillance of noncitizen Kansans and could advance the false premise that undocumented Kansans receive public benefits of any kind or are voting en masse. This is dangerous rhetoric that continues to villainize hard-working immigrant Kansans seeking to uplift their families and the communities they call home.

The lack of language in this bill regarding how this data will be stored and used leaves us little to debate: The bill language prior to this hearing is less than half a page long. The lack of transparency on data privacy and matching methods does real damage to the public input process and leaves the door open to broad interpretations of this bill. If we want to have honest, open consideration of legislation, Kansans deserve to have all the information to prepare testimony.

While not explicitly stated, the premise of this bill may assume the state will find evidence of undocumented folks receiving public benefits which is simply not possible: According to the [National Immigration Forum](#), undocumented immigrants, including DACA holders, are [ineligible](#) to receive most federal public benefits, including SNAP (sometimes referred to as food stamps), regular Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Even in mixed-status families, U.S. citizen eligibility for benefits does not extend to undocumented family members: Like any U.S.-born citizen, U.S. citizen children of undocumented parents can receive federal benefits if they meet eligibility requirements without penalty. Similarly, the child's eligibility does not change their parents' or any other family members' eligibility for that benefit.

Non-citizen immigrants utilize social programs at lower rates than U.S. citizens: An analysis by researchers at the [National Bureau of Economic Research](#) shows that when the only difference between an immigrant and a native-born U.S. citizen is their immigration status, immigrants use public benefits at much lower rates than people born here. When they do sign up for these benefits, it's for their U.S. citizen children during times of economic stress.

Both undocumented and non-citizen immigrants pay into a system that they don't/can't utilize: According to the [Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy](#), undocumented immigrants contribute an estimated \$11.74 billion to state and local economies each year. However, undocumented immigrants are not eligible for many of the federal or state benefits that their tax dollars help fund.

Again, I encourage the committee to look at the facts on this debate regarding immigrants in our state. The national narrative that is villainizing and scapegoating immigrant Kansans does nothing to actually

address the root causes of issues facing our communities today. This topic has devolved so much in recent years that now we're talking about potentially violating all Kansans data privacy by sending lists of names to the Secretary of State to search for voter fraud, when decades of investigations and litigation show that the level of noncitizen voting is exceedingly rare. . The threat isn't real, and we should be denouncing this dangerous rhetoric. I urge you to oppose HB 2491 and any attempts to categorize large groups of folks like immigrant Kansans as drains on our societies or a threat to our elections.