

Opponent Written Testimony on House Bill 2491

House Committee on Elections
Joseph Harrington, Douglas County
February 5, 2026

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in opposition to HB 2491 for the following reasons:

- 1.) This bill will not only affect noncitizens. It also will scoop up *citizens'* private data—possibly *my* private data—along with noncitizens', including dates of birth and social security numbers. It may well violate HIPPA—not to mention the Fourth Amendment.
- 2.) By the same token, it may discourage US citizens from participating in programs in which they are eligible to participate—and, perhaps, deterring them from participating in or cooperating with government in any capacity. Citizens with Spanish surnames may be especially apprehensive, given the possibility for misidentification, combined with the indiscriminate tactics of ICE and Border Patrol.
- 3.) This legislative bill inevitably will be challenged in court, adding yet another lawsuit to the state's already expanding legal bill. Moreover, it will add more bureaucratic make-work for the agencies involved, preventing them from doing the jobs we taxpayers pay them to do.
- 4.) This bill cedes yet more power to the “deep state.” It increases the surveillance power of the government over citizens and noncitizens alike. The idea of the central government making lists of despised “others” for shipment to detention centers and “deportation” should chill any American with even a nodding acquaintance with mid-twentieth-century history.
- 5.) But more immediately, this is yet another bill that will erode the sovereignty of the state of Kansas. Let's face it: this bill did not originate in Kansas—it originated in Washington, D.C. The purpose of this bill is to comply with a diktat from the White House. For my part, I would rather Kansas be a *state*, governed from Topeka, than a *province* ruled by Washington.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Joe Harrington