

**Testimony by Charlie Hunt with the Johnson County Department of
Health & Environment (JCDHE) to
House Committee on Water
Written Proponent for HB 2424 – January 22, 2026**

Chairperson Minnix and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 2424. Drinking water is critical to the health of all people in Kansas and this bill would strengthen the safety of well water across the state. JCDHE's mission is to promote and protect the health and environment for all who live, work, and play in Johnson County.

We strongly support this bill as it would:

- Establish a pump installation contractor license and qualifications for applicants;
- Improve record-keeping requirements for licensed pump installation contractors and water well contractors in Kansas;
- Increase the time (from 30 to 60 days) that the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) can request water samples after KDHE receives the water well record;
- Lead to a more robust state licensing program, resulting in higher quality wells, more detailed well records and in turn better protection of drinking water; and
- Further protect environmental ground water sources by requiring proper plugging of abandoned wells.

Protection of water resources is vital to all Kansans. This bill would improve on those protections and as such, JCDHE asks that the committee recommend HB 2424 favorably for passage.

Sincerely,

Charlie Hunt, Director
Johnson County Department of Health & Environment

