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STATE OF KANSAS

House Committee on Elections

Testimony on House Bill 2224 Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State

February 8, 2012

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2224. The bill would require all candidates for national or state office to show proof of United States citizenship to the Secretary of State as part of the process of filing for office. Further, the bill would require national party conventions to provide proof of citizenship for candidates for President and Vice President. Such documentation would include certified copies of birth certificates and driver's licenses or other government issued identification.

House Bill 2224 recognizes the fact that proof of United States citizenship is not currently part of the candidate filing process in Kansas. It is a matter of policy for the Legislature to determine the qualifications of candidates, and the Secretary of State's office will be able to implement the requirements of this bill without additional personnel or resources.

If the committee wishes to work House Bill 2224, we recommend consideration of the inclusion of independent candidates for President and Vice President in New Section 2.

Thank you for your consideration.