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Mike Fonkert, Deputy Director
Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice
mfonkert@kansasappleseed.org
Written Testimony in Opposition to HB 2491
House Committee on Elections

Chair Proctor, Ranking Member Haskins, and Members of the House Committee on Elections,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Kansas Appleseed in opposition to HB 2491. This bill would require state agencies to compile and transmit the names and addresses of noncitizens who receive state-funded benefits to the Secretary of State on a quarterly basis. This bill raises serious concerns related to privacy, administrative burden, and the proper use of state resources.¹

First, the bill mandates the collection and sharing of sensitive personal information without identifying a clear governmental purpose or demonstrating how such reporting would improve program integrity, fiscal accountability, or compliance with existing law. State agencies already administer benefit programs under extensive federal and state oversight, and HB 2491 does not explain why an additional reporting layer is necessary.

Second, the bill would impose new administrative costs on agencies that are already strained. Agencies would be required to track immigration status, compile data, and transmit reports on an ongoing basis—diverting staff time and resources away from program delivery and compliance with required duties.

Finally, HB 2491 risks undermining public trust in state programs. Requiring agencies to report personal information based solely on citizenship status may discourage eligible noncitizens from accessing lawful benefits, with downstream impacts on public health, education, and economic stability, the costs of which would ultimately fall on the state.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committee to oppose HB 2491.

Thank you for your time,

Mike Fonkert

¹ H.B. 2491. 2025 Biennium. 2026 Reg. Session. (Kansas 2026).
https://www.kslegislature.gov/li/b2025_26/measures/hb2491/