



Written Testimony of Jacqueline Doyer
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House Bill 2491 | Kansas House Elections Committee
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Chair Proctor, Members of the Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on House Bill 2491, an important measure to boost confidence in Kansas elections.

My name is Jacqueline Doyer, and I am the Legal Policy Director for Honest Elections Project Action, a nonprofit entity dedicated to defending the right of every American to vote in free and honest elections.

House Bill 2491 is a simple measure that requires state agencies providing publicly funded benefits to noncitizens to provide noncitizen information to the secretary of state. Section 7 of the National Voter Registration Act (“NVRA”) requires states to designate state offices that provide public assistance and provide State-funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities as voter registration agencies. Federal [law](#) requires these agencies to provide a form asking a person if they wish to register to vote, to distribute the federal mail voter registration application form or its equivalent, assist applicants with those forms upon request, and transmit those forms to the appropriate state election official.

[Kansas](#) is currently required to offer voter registration at offices that administer any of the four federal assistance programs. This includes the offices of the Kansas Department of Children and Families, Kansas Department of Health & Environment, and Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services. Noncitizens are eligible for benefits administered by these agencies. Recently, it has become apparent that this presents a vulnerability for Kansas elections. An issue [brief](#) released by the Inspector General just last month revealed 1,036,862 voter registration packets were sent by the Kansas Department of Health & Environment to persons who did *not* request them. In [one](#) instance, it appears a voter registration packet was mailed to a non-citizen who had been *denied* coverage due to being an ineligible non-citizen. If these packets are being sent to persons receiving public services at these agencies that did not request them, and that includes noncitizens, then the Secretary of State’s office should be able to verify that the persons registered to vote are, in fact, citizens.

Kansas has been a leader in safeguarding its elections with thorough data sharing for [list maintenance](#) requirements and [interstate](#) data sharing agreements. Securing elections starts with the first step in the voting process: voter registration. Making sure voter rolls are clean and accurate is a commonsense requirement for good elections. This bill is yet another way to further that goal. State agencies that have relevant data regarding noncitizens, particularly those that are required to act as voter registration agencies under federal law, should be authorized to provide that information to the Secretary of State’s office for use in its list maintenance activities.

For these reasons, I strongly urge this committee to advance HB 2491. Thank you, and I welcome any questions.