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STATE OF KANSAS

Testimony on HB2717 (Oral Proponent)

House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Chairman Barker and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB2717. Our office is in support of this legislation but wishes to address several technical issues.

HB2717 requires any municipal identification card to state that it is not a valid form of state identification. According to section 4 of the bill, "a municipal identification card shall not be used to satisfy any requirement of state law for proof of identity." This pertains specifically to non-citizens, who are permitted by law to obtain a state-issued identification card.

Currently, state law requires valid photo identification to cast a ballot. Acceptable forms of identification include an "employee badge or identification document issued by a municipal, county, state, or federal government office or agency" (K.S.A. 25-2908(h)(1)(E)).

It is the firm position of the Kansas Secretary of State that only United States citizens may vote in an election. Requiring voter identification to cast a ballot ensures the protection of voters' rights and the integrity of the electoral process.

HB2717 creates a potential a conflict between state laws and may result in voter confusion and litigation. We respectfully request clarification on the language pertaining to the use of municipal and state issued identification cards.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Clay Barker
Deputy Assistant Secretary of State
General Counsel