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Regarding Testimony in support of KS HB 2020

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My name is Becky Arps and I am the Director of Research for Americans for Citizen Voting. As part of my role I research what is happening across the country regarding voting and citizenship.

Kansas House Bill 2020 is common sense bill to confirm that only United States citizens are voting in Kansas elections. Having the Division of Motor Vehicles provide the Secretary of State's office a list of permanent and temporary drivers licenses issued to noncitizens quarterly provides a check to voter registrations. The Division of Motor Vehicles is in the best position to know whether registrations are for citizens or noncitizens. By removing the registrant and then notifying them protects both the registrant and the cleanliness of the voter rolls.

The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 requires that states offer registration opportunities at State motor vehicle agencies. It also requires that the states are required to maintain accurate and current voter registration lists. KS HB2020 fits into those requirements.

If a noncitizen is registered to vote their opportunity to become a citizen is put at risk along with their ability to stay in the United States. More often than not, a noncitizen is registered to vote through no fault of their own. If they receive information in the mail on how to vote they may vote simply due to a trust in the system. Noncitizens that have a bit more knowledge about the election system in the United States may seek out advice from a lawyer who advise them to not vote. This scenario has happened in Illinois, Texas, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and California in the past 5 years. By removing the noncitizen from the voter rolls and notifying protects the noncitizen and also gives them the opportunity to provide information if a mistake is made.

I believe that KS HB2020 is good commonsense legislation that will protect both the noncitizens of Kansas and the sanctity of elections in Kansas. I support the passing of this legislation.