



Testimony of Catherine Gunsalus, Director of State Advocacy  
Heritage Action for America  
February 4, 2025

**Proponent Testimony: House Bill 2106**

Submitted to the Kansas House Elections Committee

Chairman Proctor and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2106. My name is Catherine Gunsalus and I am the Director of State Advocacy at Heritage Action for America, a national grassroots organization with two million conservative activists nationwide, including thousands of Kansans.

Heritage Action supports House Bill 2106 and we thank Chairman Proctor and Vice Chair Waggoner for introducing this important legislation to ensure Kansas' elections are free from the corrupting influence of foreign funding. Free and fair elections are the bedrock of our republic, and every Kansan should have confidence in the security and integrity of our election system.

In George Washington's 1796 Farewell Address,<sup>1</sup> he cautioned that "foreign influence is one of the most baneful foes of republican government." With growing geopolitical threats like the influence of the Chinese Communist Party,<sup>2</sup> Kansas is wise to ensure the integrity of its elections and guard against the influence of foreign actors that could seek to undermine Kansas' interests.

Prohibiting foreign nationals from contributing to constitutional amendment measures ensures Kansans' voices are not diluted, and decisions about Kansas' Constitution are based on the voices of its citizens – not foreign billionaires. The U.S. federal government rightly limits the participation of foreign individuals, entities, and governments in national political campaigns. Preventing external financial influence from steering election outcomes towards foreign interests rather than those of the United States should be a priority at the state level as well.

Foreign meddling in the U.S. political landscape is not a hypothetical problem and states like Kansas are right to address it. Foreign nationals are making contributions aimed at influencing Kansas' Constitution. Further, Kansas is not alone in its endeavor to push back. Ohio enacted a bill in 2024 prohibiting direct and indirect foreign contributions for ballot measures. As of today,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/05-20-02-0440-0002>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.heritage.org/asia/report/why-state-legislatures-must-confront-chinese-infiltration>

several other states across the country are taking initiative to protect their state elections from foreign funding by introducing similar legislation.

Finally, Heritage Action lobbies alongside and on behalf of grassroots across the country, including in Kansas. Protecting Kansas' elections from outside influence is top of mind for the grassroots and they are keenly aware of the fact that the integrity of our government and protecting liberty hinge upon the ability to conduct transparent, accurate and fair elections. Grassroots are determined to ensure that their voice is heard and they can have confidence in the electoral process.

Kansas has made great strides in strengthening the security and integrity of its elections process, and has the opportunity to continue to lead in the nation by passing HB 2106. **I urge you to vote yes on HB 2106.** Thank you for your time and attention to this issue.