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**TESTIMONY OF REP. JOHN RUBIN
IN SUPPORT OF HB 2164**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 11, 2012**

Chairman Kinzer and fellow committee member, I appreciate this opportunity to testify today as a proponent of HB 2164.

This proposed legislation mirrors an amendment to another bill that successfully passed out of this committee and the House last term, only to die in the Senate. Its purpose is simple: to remove existing statutory impediments preventing jury commissioners from sharing information with the secretary of state regarding potential jurors who are disqualified from jury service because they are not citizens of Kansas possessing the qualifications of an elector in this state.

A requisite qualification to serve on a jury in Kansas is that the prospective juror is a citizen of Kansas and a qualified elector, or voter, as a United States citizen. Occasionally, persons summoned to serve as jurors request to be excused and are excused because they do not possess these citizenship qualifications. The secretary of state has in the past requested such information in order to ensure such persons are not included on, or are removed from the voting registration rolls in Kansas because they are not citizens and thus not entitled to vote. But the secretary of state has not been able to obtain such information from jury commissioners because of existing statutory prohibitions keeping such jury pool information confidential.

This legislation will rectify that statutory impediment by enabling the secretary of state, who is charged by law with maintaining correct and accurate voter registration rolls, to ensure that persons disqualified from serving as jurors because they are not citizens are also disqualified from voting for the same reason.

I would be pleased to stand for questions.