

# STATE OF KANSAS

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## Written Testimony on HB 2474

Written to

Senate Judiciary Committee

By

**Elizabeth Saadi, PhD, State Registrar for Vital Records and Director**

**Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics,**

**Kansas Department of Health and Environment**

**March 1, 2018**

Chairman Wilborn, Vice Chair Lynn and members of the committee, I am Elizabeth Saadi, PhD, State Registrar for Vital Records and Director of the Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics, for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). Thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral, written testimony for House Bill 2474.

Registering Kansas marriage events is a core function of the courts and the judicial process within state government. Individuals need timely, accurate documentation of their vital records to obtain current drivers licenses after marriage and for other key administrative needs. Electronic processing of vital event records is a rapid, more accurate and secure way to meet reporting requirements. Conversion from paper-based to electronic filing of vital event records has been a state and national initiative since the early 2000s. KDHE worked with the courts to provide electronic processing capacity for marriages events. This has contributed significantly not only to assuring records are available in a timely and accurate manner for issuance but also in preventing fraud and identity theft.

KDHE supports the provisions of this bill which provides through legislation current practice for electronic filing of Kansas marriage events.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these written comments.