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VIC MILLER  
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**Testimony before Senate Ethics & Elections Committee  
January 29, 2020  
Senate Bill 149**

**Chairperson Bowers, Vice-Chair Hardy, Ranking Member Haley and members of the committee:**

Senate Bill 149 is an attempt to strike some middle ground between those insisting a voter must produce a birth certificate to be duly registered to vote and those that believe a mere declaration of citizenship is enough to satisfy that requirement.

The Constitution requires we be citizens to vote. Consequently, I have no problem that the general public have some level of confidence our elections produce results from only a citizen electorate. I do believe, however, that current Kansas statutes requiring first time voters produce a birth certificate is overly onerous and amounts to an unconstitutional poll tax on our right to vote. The \$15 required to obtain a certified copy of one's birth certificate may not seem like a lot to some people but I can assure you it is a substantial obstacle to many of the people I represent – not to mention the bureaucratic hassle of doing so.

SB 146 is intended to set a framework for an applicant who wishes to register to vote to consent within that application to the release of their birth information to any election official seeking such confirmation. By doing so, we remove the onus from the voter but give the election official an avenue for verification when deemed necessary.

I am happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.