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HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER

March 14, 2012

House Bill 2782
House Elections Committee

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to come before you today in order to testify in support of House Bill 2782, which would ensure any person running for public office in Kansas will have the same qualifications as a qualified elector in Kansas.

While the issue of voter identification has drawn considerable interest in the state, I was recently surprised to learn of what I view to be a notable oversight in current statute. This bill is simply a remedy to ensure requirements for public office are aligned with the same standards we require of those who wish to vote in our elections.

After calling the Secretary of State's office to confirm, I was surprised to learn there is currently no mechanism in place to confirm citizenship for elected statewide office. While indeed, the instances in which I anticipate this to be an issue are rare, I've found in matters such as this it's always prudent to plan for the unexpected.

With that, I ask that when you consider passage of House Bill 2782 you do so favorably. I will stand for questions.