

**Veto Message from the Governor**  
**HB 2288**

We have a rich history and tradition in Kansas of working to increase citizen participation in our democracy. Voting has indeed become easier and more convenient in our state over the past decade due to measures like advance voting.

It is my belief that **House Bill 2288**, the Kansas provisions of the federal Help Americans Vote Act, goes against our state's long standing tradition of striving to achieve greater voter participation in our democratic process. I have long been a proponent of personal privacy and I keenly understand how protective Kansans are of their privacy. The needless identification requirements of **HB 2288** will only work to create mistrust among many of the electorate and serve as a barrier for our continued desire for increased voter participation.

Therefore, I veto **HB 2288**.

The requirements of the federal government in the Help Americans Vote Act are very clear, and I wholeheartedly embrace them. However, **HB 2288** reaches beyond those fundamental guidelines and may actually run the risk of hampering citizen involvement in their government.

There exists an opportunity to obtain federal funding to assist with the implementation of provisions relating to HAVA. Initial funds to the states from the federal government to implement certain aspects of HAVA, such as bringing Kansas polling places into ADA compliance, will be automatic. Other funds will be available to Kansas, contingent upon compliance with the federal minimum requirements.

A federal board on election administration will ultimately determine compliance with the federal requirements of HAVA. This board has not yet been appointed or confirmed at the federal level. Kansas has time to enact legislation that will meet the federal requirements and not place receipt of these federal funds in jeopardy.

Therefore, I challenge the legislature to work with me and the Secretary of State during the upcoming legislative veto session to craft a law that will strike an appropriate balance between satisfying the minimum federal requirements for HAVA, ensuring citizen's privacy, and carrying on the proud Kansas tradition of empowering citizen involvement in their government through voting.

SIGNED April 18, 2003

Kathleen Sebelius  
*Governor*