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## **Kansas Republican Exposed 945 Social Security Numbers**

Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach (R) claimed he was unaware of any security breaches with the Interstate Crosscheck Program, a project Kansas administers to compare voter registration databases across states for duplicate voters. “We have never had any security breach, ever, since the Crosscheck program has existed,” Kobach said on January 10th. Less than 10 days later, Florida announced it would be providing free credit checks to 945 individuals whose social security numbers Kansas inadvertently sent through unsecured email and that Florida then provided to an individual who filed a public records request seeking information about the state’s participation in the program. The Kansas resident who filed the records request, Anita Parsa, told ThinkProgress that after the 2016 election, she became interested in learning more about why her state administers a program that opponents say allows for voter suppression. She quickly learned that it’s also rife with security concerns. In April, Parsa requested public records from states that have recently pulled out of Crosscheck to learn why they made that decision. When she received a disc in the mail from Florida, she noticed that the state had inadvertently sent her an encryption password to access the Crosscheck data electronically. That revelation prompted her to contact Indivisible Chicago, which had been looking into security concerns with the system. The group made Parsa’s discovery and other reports of breaches public, leading to reports about massive concerns with Crosscheck’s data security. Gizmodo, a technology news site, published a piece with the headline: “Even a novice hacker could breach the

network hosting Kris Kobach's bogus voter fraud program." A few months later, while looking through the records again, Parsa said she noticed an attachment that included the names and social security numbers of 945 people in Kansas and Florida who Kansas claimed potentially voted twice. The list Parsa received is not the only recent security breach stemming from Crosscheck, Held said. The group has also received from Florida full voter applications for 28 Mississippi voters, including partial Social Security numbers and driver's license numbers. Arizona has also emailed Washington a list of voters with unredacted social security numbers, according to Held, and Washington emailed 50 to 100 voters' information with social security numbers to Massachusetts and other states. But Parsa said that's not enough. "We [in Kansas] are the stewards of 100 million voters' private data, and we're doing it with 2005 tech that has not been updated, that we haven't spent a dime on, and we're securing it with a \$20,000 security upgrade patch," she said. Kobach's office announced Monday that Crosscheck will be operational again next month following the security review.