

Written Testimony in Support of H.B. 2236

Noelle Friese

House Education Committee

Thank you for letting me share my story with you today. My name is Noelle Friese, wife to the pastor at First Southern Baptist Church in Coffeyville, Kansas, and Senior Wing Chaplain in the Oklahoma Air National Guard 138 Fighter Wing. I am a homeschool mom to eight children and grandmother to three. I have homeschooled our children for the past 12 years. I appreciate you taking the time to hear my thoughts on this bill today.

I am writing to support House Bill No. 2236 upholding the inalienable rights given to us as parents to direct the educational, moral, and spiritual upbringing of the children given to us by God. As a mother, educator, and taxpayer in my community, a bill like this to uphold the rights of parents with children in the public school system is imperative. Due to the fact a bill like this is even being discussed I know I am not alone in my desire to see these rights upheld and respected for the benefit of the children, families, and our communities.

What drove me to prepare a statement was something shared with me by a member of our church who works as a substitute at Coffeyville Middle School. About a month ago when she was substituting the Assistant Principal gave her a survey to hand out to students, one not shared with parents, and gave the students the opportunity to share without parents ever knowing. This survey asked the following questions:

What is your preferred name?

What is your legal name?

What pronouns do you use for yourself? She/her he/him they/them other

Outside of this space, should I use your preferred name and pronouns with

Parent(s)/guardians faculty/staff students

Only those I specify are ok (please list them on the back of the card)

Is there anything about you you'd like me to know or understand?

I am not sure what part of any of this has to do with education and the fact that they are willing to allow and encourage a child in middle school to make decisions and keep them from their parents is absolutely unacceptable. These are life altering discussions that should not be occurring without parental involvement to truly help the child. As a parent, if my child came home and shared they received a survey like this without my knowledge or permission and the school was going to withhold information from me, I would be down the next day removing my child from the school system. This is a direct violation of the rights of parents.

Children are not allowed to drive until they are over 16, vote until they are 18, or drink until 21. For that matter, they can't even go on a field trip or join a sports team without parental consent. But they are

allowed and encouraged to make decisions that are not even rational, like what gender they want to “be” or how they want to be addressed using different pronouns without their parents even knowing about it? No one has the right to put these thoughts into the mind of a minor that they might not be the gender they were when they were born and especially without the parent being involved in these discussions. This directly violates the rights of parents and should never be allowed. This bill will help ensure these rights are not violated in this manner.

Schools are for education! Reading, writing, arithmetic, factual history, and PE are the only subjects that need to be covered at school. Sex ed, radical ideologies, social-emotional learning, and skewed history have no place in our school systems. Anything outside of the basics should be openly discussed and approved by parents before any child is allowed to participate.

It is becoming increasingly difficult for parents to raise their children without the impact of so many influences they do not want in their children’s lives. Parents should not have to worry about them learning things in school that directly violate their moral, ethical, or religious beliefs. Parents need to be notified and given the opportunity to withdraw their children from activities that do not align with their sincere and deeply held beliefs with no adverse impacts on their records. Honestly the fact we have to have a bill to protect these rights seems unreal to me but that is where we are and I fully support this bill.

If you have any further questions I can be reached at mnfrieze7@gmail.com. Thank you for your service to our state and for your time.