



**Taryn Jones, Equality Kansas Lobbyist
Testimony in Opposition of HB 2238
House Education Committee
Hearing date – February 13th, 2023, 1:30**

Dear House Education Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Taryn Jones, and I am a Lobbyist for Equality Kansas, and a voter in District 21. I am here to testify in opposition to HB 2238. This is the third consecutive year that the Kansas Legislature has introduced a discriminatory anti-trans sports bill. The supporters of this bill say that HB 2238 is about protecting women's sports, but it is simply state-sanctioned bullying of children.

HB 2238 is a solution in search of a problem. According to KSHSAA there are only two trans students this year that asked for exceptions. Only one of them is female. Since this is an activities association, not an athletic association, we don't even know if these students are athletes. Is this committee saying they are willing to move a bill forward for two students who may not even be playing sports? These trans students are just trying to exist! All they want to do is to be able to play sports like any other kid. This bill would require that these children play on a team as a gender that they may not even physically appear as part of.

In a 2022 survey released by the Trevor Project 83% of trans and non-binary youth said that they worried about being denied the ability to play sports. This same survey stated that two-thirds of trans and non-binary youth experienced depression, and one in five attempted suicide. I want to be clear, trans kids are not depressed and suicidal because they are trans. They are depressed and suicidal because of the way society treats them. Let's not be part of that.

I would also like to point out that this bill does not have any guidance regarding intersex kids, the bill doesn't even mention them. What is the guidance for intersex children? Are they only allowed to play in coed sports? We often act like sex is black and white, but scientifically that is not always the case. It's not that simple. We need to think about this before moving this bill out of committee. This and all the other reasons stated above are why I would ask the committee to vote no on HB 2238

Thank you for your time. I am happy to answer any questions or provide any resources.

Taryn Jones
Equality Kansas Lobbyist