

February 13, 2023; 1:30 pm
House Committee on Education
Rep. Adam Thomas, Chair

Elise Williamson
American

HB2238 – Creating the "fairness in women's sports" act to require that female student athletic teams only include members who are biologically female.

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Thomas and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on HB2238.

My name is Lee. I am a concerned American citizen following the sudden and dangerous surge in trans-exclusionary bills appearing across this nation that target everything from sports and schools, freedom of expression, healthcare, and particularly, the lives, dreams, and rights of young people. I am testifying in opposition to this bill that claims to "create fairness" in student athletics but will do the exact opposite.

HB 2238 only succeeds in invading the medical privacy of young Kansan athletes and aspiring athletes, targeting an already-discriminated minority by conjuring a problem where there is none, and robbing vital, formative opportunities earned by and gifted to young people through inclusive sports and athletics.

Competitive physical activities and team sports are so important to young athletes. It builds community and friendships, develops good work and team building ethics, gives space to grow skills and earn a sense of achievement, and creates enumerable and unimaginable opportunities for formative experiences. Teams grow together, win and lose together. They do so only by being welcoming and inclusive, becoming a team by acting like one.

But HB 2238 tells your child and our children, "Sorry, you can't swing a bat or racket, throw or kick a ball, run long or fast, wear a uniform or don cleats, and get a trophy or mourn a down-to-the-second loss until an adult runs blood tests, inspects your genitals, and leers over your medical records from the day you were born. Only then, once they've seen you, all of you and in you, can you play or potentially never play again in the city and state you call home." Now, that should sound weird to any person hearing and imagining that, because it is weird. It's damaging, violating, punishing, excluding, and discriminating.

This bill purports to fix a lack of "fairness" in student athletics. It does not. Please listen to the testimonies for whom this bill directly affects - brave children and parents, loyal teammates and

passionate coaches, actual medical professionals and dedicated activists. The inclusion of trans athletes does not create unfairness, but their deliberate exclusion definitely will.

HB 2238 pressures individual Kansans into the role of doctor, biologist, geneticist, and Recorder-County Clerk. It invades Kansan's medical privacy and targets the minority of transgender athletes worthy of both dignity and inclusion in athletics. It does the opposite of what it claims to stand for, instead creating unfairness, exclusion, and prejudice in Kansas student athletics.