

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

Devin Wilson
Lifelong Kansan, private citizen

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.

Dear House Education Committee,
Please accept my written testimony in opposition to HB2238.

KSHSAA, NCAA, and other governing bodies have updated policies in place for transgender Student-Athletes.

Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) policy for transgender Student-Athletes in Kansas.

<https://www.kshsaa.org/public/pdf/transgenderpolicyrecommendations.pdf>

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Transgender Student-Athlete Participation Policy

<https://www.ncaa.org/sports/2022/1/27/transgender-participation-policy.aspx>

As a lifelong Christian, born and raised in Kansas, my sincerely held religious beliefs include the fact that our Creator made us all, different, special, and important.

Biological sex is not binary.
(Ainsworth, 2018)

There are a vast array of differences of sex development. "DSD for "Differences of Sex Development" or "Sexual Differences Development" refers to situations where chromosomal, gonadal or anatomical sex is atypical. (Bessiène, 2018)

It is imperative that we support all Kansans, especially children, and ensure that they are part of a community that supports and nurtures them, and supports them to be their true selves living to their full potential. We are failing some Kansans and it is not acceptable.

"82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide, with suicidality highest among transgender youth." (Austin 2022)

These are horrible statistics and we must do better.

References

Ainsworth, Claire Nature Magazine. "Sex Redefined: The Idea of 2 Sexes Is Overly Simplistic." Scientific American, 22 Oct. 2018, www.scientificamerican.com/article/sex-redefined-the-idea-of-2-sexes-is-overly-simplistic1.

Bessiène, Laura et al. "Controverses et challenges sur le développement sexuel différent (DSD)" [Differences of Sex Development (DSD): Controversies and Challenges]. Annales d'endocrinologie vol. 79 Suppl 1 (2018): S22-S30. doi:10.1016/S0003-4266(18)31235-6 <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30213302/#:~:text=DSD%20for%20%22Differences%20of%20Sex,are%20not%20a%20diagnostic%20issue>

Austin, Ashley et al. "Suicidality Among Transgender Youth: Elucidating the Role of Interpersonal Risk Factors." Journal of interpersonal violence vol. 37,5-6 (2022): NP2696-NP2718. doi:10.1177/0886260520915554

It was reported when a similar bill was proposed a couple of years ago, there were only five high school student-athletes that a transgender policy addresses.

With the small number of athletes that are directly affected with a transgender student-athlete policy, and with amateur athletic student-athlete governing bodies already having policies addressing this, this bill is nothing short of a political solution in search of a nonexistent problem, with the side effects of further making Kansas student-athletes feel unwelcome, as well as increasing bullying.

Again, please vote NO on this bill. It is unnecessary and just leads to more persecution and bullying of Kansas.

Thank you for your consideration, and your service to the great State of Kansas.

Devin Wilson, private citizen, on behalf of myself only
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