

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

Addison Bartelli
President, GSA of Olathe East High School

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.

Hello, my name is Addison. I'm a senior at Olathe East High School, and I sit as the President of OE's Gender Sexuality Alliance student group. My primary role in this position is to ensure all of East's LGBT+ students are able to cherish a learning and social environment that is safe and secure. It is for this reason that I oppose HB2238.

As president of East's GSA, I have the unique pleasure of seeing the challenges LGBT+ teenagers face everyday. Although East is undoubtedly the one of the most secure schools in the state for this population, it still holds the potential to be personally threatening and insecure as the direct result of private and public policy failures. Myself and my peers have sustained extended in-class discussions over the validity of our existence as an "issue" to be argued. I have been personally harassed by faculty in great detail within the classroom. I mention this because following those incidents, coming from a 3.9, all-honors student, skipping year finals seemed to be a logical decision if it meant avoiding that room. Children are easily influenced by authority. When that authority insinuates, or worse, outright casts them as invalids, that's the kind of behavior that sends a child deep into self-doubt and despair. I know well that every one of my elected officials have heard time and time again the consequences such nonsense poses for mental health. To ignore these consequences is unmistakably trans-eliminationist. Under such conditions, a child will cannot learn, a child will not prosper, a child will leave the state or die trying. You already know the facts and have heard the testimonies two times before. It is your actions that speak volumes.

I oppose the relevant legislation and urge those to whom it is relevant to carefully consider the testimonies before you. On behalf of my self and everyone at Olathe East, I'd like to thank you for your time and consideration.