

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

Courtney Bell
Kansas Resident

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 Courtney Bell, and I have worked to secure college scholarships for Kansas high school students since 2006.

HB2238 is founded on fear mongering, making parents afraid that trans students are taking away opportunities from their kids. As someone who specifically works in the scholarship arena, I can say unequivocally that this is a false narrative. Not only have I never seen the circumstances that would "necessitate" this bill occur in my 17 years as an expert securing millions of dollars in scholarships for my students, but, just as a theory, this bill is flawed since almost all students who receive athletic scholarships never compete at an elite level, where increased competition from another student could possibly cost them a top tier athletic scholarship. Additionally, athletic regulation bodies in Kansas already ensure that unfair competitive advantage doesn't take place, rendering this legislation unnecessary. Moreover, last year, at the time when this bill failed to override the governor's veto, the bill would have impacted only one high school athlete in the state. When the legislature is passing laws that only impacts one trans athlete, I would classify that as bullying at best and demagoguing a Kansas child at worst.

HB2238 is the most shameful kind of governance. It takes a manufactured problem that is impacting no one in our state and makes the public afraid of it at the expense of a handful (at most) of high school athletes. I ask that you would vote against such blatant bigotry towards Kansas kids.