

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

Mike Bonner
Kansas Resident, parent

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.

I am Mike Bonner and live in Wichita Kansas. The purpose of my writing is to support all LGBTQ+ people, but in this particular case those who are transgender.

There is much misinformation surrounding transgender people. Gender refers to the social roles and behaviors that a given culture associates with a person's biological sex. Gender is not one's secondary sex characteristics, such as the presence of breast tissue, ovaries, a uterus, a vagina, a penis, or testicles.

Gender identity is one's innate sense of their gender. This innate sense may be aligned with the culture's view of gender roles as they relate to a person's assigned-at-birth sex or it may be divergent from that cultural role. Gender identity begins forming extremely early in life, and most children have an innate sense of their gender identity by age 3 to age 5.

Transgender Identity is supported by scientific and medical organizations such as:

World Health Organization

World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH)

American Medical Association

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

American Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of Nursing

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

National Association of Social Workers

And many, many more!

The aggregate of humanity's medical and scientific understanding states in no uncertain terms:

Transgender people exist, are valid, and should be treated as such.

Not allowing students to be authentically who they are is dangerous. Our acknowledgement of our children and who they are can save their lives. Allowing them to participate in an activity can be such a positive light in a time where they are constantly under attack. The KSHSAA has had

zero issues with transgender athletes. They have policies in place. This legislation is unnecessary.

I strongly oppose HB 2238. It is unnecessary and puts transgender youth at risk. Thank you for considering my testimony.