

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

Haley Carlson
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.

My name is Haley Carlson and I am a proud stepparent to a 10 year old daughter. This is important to me because I want to support her and her friends to the fullest in whatever decisions they may make throughout their childhood. Should her or any of her friends decide to transition I want them to have the same opportunities as all other kids their age. This is why I am writing in my testimony and why I am against HB2238.

All children deserve to have the same opportunities to live, thrive, and participate in their communities. This bill singles out one group of children and bans them from playing with their friends simply because they are different. Again, if my step daughter or any of her friends decided that they wanted to transition, I would want them to have equal opportunities and I believe that not having them would be detrimental to their growth and development as a young adult. The media focuses on such a small number of trans athletes succeeding on a national scale that it has created an environment where misinformation has flourished, resulting in bills like this that target a very small minority of children and bullies them on a statewide scale. Our children have already been through so much at such a young age including the pandemic, which has left the majority of children anxious, isolated, and depressed. They couldn't hug their friends or have overnights or play without masks for over two years. Imagine coming out of that and then being singled out and isolated again simply because you made a decision to transition and live the life you really feel inside and out? You're punishing them for being who they are and keeping them in an anxious, isolated and depressive state. This is why it is crucial to not pass HB2238.

Thank you Committee Members for your time. I am asking you to vote NO on HB2238 specifically to protect the development of our youth and allow them to live equal lives as their friends and schoolmates.