

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

Shannon Forsythe
School Psychologist

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 Shannon Forsythe. I am a school psychologist. My personal and professional ethics require me to ensure that children with diverse gender identities are safe to develop and express their personal identities in a climate that is free of harassment and discrimination. HB2238 is a discriminatory bill that strategically harms some of our most vulnerable.

For years I've worked with transgender youth in Kansas ages 12-18. In the face of a hostile, hateful world, those children were the most kind, accepting and hopeful I've ever known. However, statistics are brutal. These children are the most likely to be bullied, harassed, to be the victims of horrible violence. The most likely to take their own lives after a lifetime of discrimination, just like that in HB2238.

As a professional dedicated to the safety and rights of all Kansan youth, I am opposed to HB2238. Thank you for your time and consideration.