

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

Liz Hamor  
CEO, Center of Daring

**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.

Listen. We're doing this again?

This is my third year to submit testimony in opposition to similar bills. However, this is at least the eighth year that a faction of our Kansas state legislators have chosen to prioritize attacking transgender children over protecting them, despite having nearly a decade of education by lobbyists, citizens, and conferees about how harmful these bills are to the health and well being of trans Kansans.

This is at least the eighth year that transgender Kansans have to witness their state's elected officials use their power to demonize and dehumanize transgender children, stoking fear in Kansans about what they don't understand. They could be focusing instead on legislation that heals, innovates, and creates a growing, thriving state where everyone can feel like they belong and where they can thrive. The latter is the leadership I believe all Kansans want, but instead, we're getting bills like HB 2238 and SB 12 that seek to solve a problem that doesn't exist by attacking innocent, beautiful, talented, creative children.

In 2021, through my written testimony in opposition of a similar bill, I shared with you the story of one of our youth who visited the Capitol when I helped lead GLSEN Kansas field trips. I shared about how anti-trans legislation inflamed anti-trans sentiment in his community and school. I told about how that made him feel unwelcome in his school, in his town, and on this planet. Devastated, I shared how that hostility ultimately resulted in him leaving this planet too soon. (This year, his sister visited some of you and shared his story again, in case you've forgotten him and the trauma these bills cause.)

Read more here:

[http://kslegislature.org/li\\_2022/b2021\\_22/committees/ctte\\_s\\_ed\\_1/documents/testimony/20210223\\_86.pdf](http://kslegislature.org/li_2022/b2021_22/committees/ctte_s_ed_1/documents/testimony/20210223_86.pdf)

In 2022 I said, “I know that you have every bit of education at your fingertips about how trans boys are boys, and trans girls are girls, through submitted expert testimony going back several years. I know that you have every piece of data about the school experiences of transgender youth and how bills like this contribute to a hostile climate for them, and I know that all of that isn’t enough.”

Read the rest here:

[http://www.kslegislature.org/li\\_2022/b2021\\_22/committees/ctte\\_s\\_ed\\_1/misc\\_documents/download\\_testimony/ctte\\_s\\_ed\\_1\\_20220307\\_127\\_testimony.html](http://www.kslegislature.org/li_2022/b2021_22/committees/ctte_s_ed_1/misc_documents/download_testimony/ctte_s_ed_1_20220307_127_testimony.html)

I don’t know what it will take for you to lead in ways that create beauty instead of harm and death. I do know that maybe you’ll never change, but that change is coming.

In the more than eight years you’ve been attacking these youth, many of these students and their fierce friends have grown into adults. I have supported and mentored many of them, and watched in awe as they surpass the leadership skills of most adults with courage, poise, grace, acceptance, and love. Their parents and family members are finding their voices, too, no longer afraid of rocking the boat in their homes, churches, and communities. Together, they are done waiting for you to create the affirming climate and culture that trans youth need in order to feel like they belong, and they are creating it themselves.

Change is inevitable. You can choose humility in acknowledging the harm caused and you can choose to learn and grow, or you can be replaced by the change that’s coming.

Vote NO on HB 2238.

With hope,  
Liz Hamor, she/her  
Center of Daring  
316-285-9231  
[liz.hamor@centerofdaring.com](mailto:liz.hamor@centerofdaring.com)