



KANSAS NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION / 715 SW 10TH AVENUE / TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1686

Timothy R. Graham
Director of Government Relations & Coalitions
Written Testimony – Opponent
House Education Committee
House Bill 2238
February 13, 2023

Chairperson Thomas, members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to HB 2238.

With all do respect for those who are supporters of this proposed legislation, Kansas NEA believes that this is an example of a solution in search of a problem.

Kansas NEA opposes this proposed legislation on three grounds.

- Jurisdiction
- Existence of policy
- Advocacy of Equal Rights

Jurisdiction

Kansas NEA strongly believes that the governance and regulation of extra-curricular school athletics is under the jurisdiction of the Kansas State High School Activities Association. The professionals that oversee that body are uniquely qualified, and expected, to determine the implementation of Kansas sports programs in our schools.

Existence of Policy

As the regulatory body for extra-curricular school athletics, The Kansas State High School Activities Association, has an existing policy that can be found with the following link:

<https://www.kshsaa.org/Public/PDF/TransgenderPolicyRecommendations.pdf>

Kansas NEA finds that these recommendations have been thoroughly vetted and act as a fair and equitable set of standards to deal with this issue.

Advocacy of Equal Rights

Kansas NEA supports equal rights and equity of opportunity to all persons regardless of race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, or ethnicity. HB 2238 directly contradicts our commitment to this core value.

In closing, Kansas law grants exemptions to such things as school required vaccinations citing a family's "sincerely held beliefs." Proposed legislation, in recent years, exempted teachers from teaching subjects that didn't align with their "sincerely held beliefs." HB 2238 violates the sanctity of the sincerely held core identity of transgender athletes. This is discriminatory and inconsistent.

Kansas NEA opposes this proposed legislation.

Thank you again for your time.