

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

Sophia Riada  
Educator

**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 Sophia Riada, and I am an educator who works in the state of Kansas. I am writing this testimony to oppose Bill HB2238. I believe that sports should be accessible and equitable for all, and this bill does nothing to protect equity, accessibility, or fairness.

I know many young, trans students, who would have their social life and future dreams destroyed by this bill. Studies have shown that being trans does NOT give advantage in athletics. As a teacher, I believe research is important when discussing an issue, and I encourage those reading my testimony to PLEASE research. Science.org actually has a wonderful article on this, which complies data from an in-depth study that was done. Other studies have been, at best, inconclusive. All this bill would do is forcibly out trans students, and put them at a higher risk for prejudice and hate crimes. Also, biology is a tricky thing. What do we do with intersex students or students that have a DSD (a difference in sexual development)? This bill would solve nothing: it would only cause more problems. I am also alarmed at the possible invasiveness inflicted upon students and at the actual risk for predatory behavior that could be caused by this bill. Has anyone discussed how this law would be followed? What examinations might be done? What medical information would have to be put forth? Where does the individual's right for privacy come in?

Again, I write this in opposition to bill HB2238. I only see this bill taking away privacy, being a cause of actual transgressions toward vulnerable people, and causing greater division. I really hope my own words are considered heavily, as well as everyone else who is testifying. I thank the committee for their time, and I truly hope, they consider the gravity of what is being proposed here.