

Opponent Testimony of HB2238  
For the Senate Education Committee  
March 6, 2023  
Jonithan Bennett  
Parent

Chair Baumgardner and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent written testimony on House Bill 2238.

My name is Jon Bennett and I have a 2 year old son. My brother and my best friend identify as trans and non-binary, respectively, and both me and my wife identify as queer and part of the LGBTQ community. As you can see, I have a personally vested interest in ensuring that this bill does not limit the opportunities and respect that trans people are given, but that should not matter. Even if I was not personally connected to this bill, I would oppose it, as there are no grounds for the government to intervene in the lives of children and tell them what they can and cannot do. All this bill seeks to do is tear down opportunities for our kids and treat them with disrespect, and I will not stand for it.

I do not understand why it is so hard to see how this bill's passing will negatively impact children. Extracurricular activities such as sports are just as important to their education and growth as studying and learning in a classroom. Yet much like how we fought to remove the laws preventing young girls from playing sports in the first place, now this bill seeks to oppress and limit the lives of our children, no matter their gender. All it will gain is stripping children of the right to live their own lives. I will not raise my own child, regardless of gender, in a state that treats our children as less than people.

The kind of laws this bill represents are the kinds of laws we have already worked to remove in the past. The government has no right to tell my child what they can and cannot do, nor any of our children. This bill can only hurt our children's futures and limit their opportunities. I refuse to stand by and watch our government strip rights and respect from kids across the state.