

Opponent Testimony of HB2238
For the Senate Education Committee
March 6, 2023
Kris Humphreys
Physician and transgender person

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

I am internal medicine physician, practicing in Overland Park Kansas. My clinical focus is providing gender, affirming primary care. I am also a transgender person myself. I am writing in opposition to this bill.

There is nothing fair about the discrimination and harm this bill will cause. For cis gender girls it reinforces myths about their physical inferiority and helplessness. For trans girls it is a way to shame them about who they are and a way to ban them from an experience that every other student has the right to participate in. Kids who are already experiencing bullying and hate now will not even have the refuge of a sport they enjoy, teammates who will have their back, a coach who notices when they are down.

There is a huge variation in the bodies and hormone levels of cis-gender girls. Many cis-gender girls have male hormone levels similar to cis-gender boys. There is huge variation in body size, muscle distribution and innate physical prowess among cis gender girls based on genetics, nutritional status, and training.

Transgender girls, particularly those who were on puberty blockers during puberty, have the EXACT same physicality as cis gender girls. And for the transgender girls who were not able to get blockers before puberty started they are started on medication that drops their testosterone and raises their estrogen into cis female ranges. The effects of feminizing hormones are decreased muscle strength and bulk, feminine redistribution of fat and ligament / joint laxity. What this means is that physically they are similar to their cis gender teammates: Weaker than some, stronger than others, possibly less coordinated than many.

This bill will do nothing to make sports fair but it will needlessly harm a vulnerable group of girls and ruin the true value of sports for all girls. If Sports are meant to teach kids commitment, integrity, and teamwork passing this bill will decimate those ideals.