

Opponent Testimony of HB2238  
For the Senate Education Committee  
March 6, 2023  
Kathryn Mersmann  
KSHAA Alumni

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

I am a graduate of Olathe Public Schools, where I played two varsity sports and captained the drill team. This perspective allows me to unequivocally oppose this bill, which harms Kansans and helps no one.

This bill is not only discriminatory and harmful, it's also an egregious waste of legislative time and resources. Research has shown that transgender athletes do not have a meaningful advantage in athletic competition. However, even if they did, that is the nature of athletics — Michael Phelps is a multi-gold medalist in part because of natural genetic differences. Beyond the intentional harm this bill is designed to cause, it's also irrelevant. There are an infinitesimally small number of trans athletes competing in Kansas. This is what makes it clear that this bill is designed to intimidate trans Kansans, rather than enact any meaningful change. If you want to make school athletics safe for students, refocus your efforts on removing the cisgender teachers preying on students, like the one recently arrested at my own alma mater.

Thank you for your time reading my testimony. In the future, I hope we can work together to make Kansas a safer and kinder place for all.