

March 6, 2023; 1:30 pm
Senate Committee on Education
Sen. Molly Baumgardner, Chair

Hailey Reed
Kansas Resident/ Former Collegiate Student-Athlete

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 Baumgardner and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on HB2238.

My name is Hailey Reed and I am a Kansas resident, second-year law student at the University of Kansas, and a former University of Kansas Softball Player. I am writing in opposition of HB 2238 because I believe the memories and life skills I gained from my time as an athlete are monumental to my life story and I strongly believe that every person deserves an opportunity to have the same experience.

If I was asked what the number one thing that got me where I am today was, I would without hesitation answer sports. Participating in sports throughout my life has brought me some of the best memories, friends, experiences, and life lessons. When I think back to my time as an athlete, my most fond memories include the bus rides to and from games with teammates, the team bonding and relationship building, and the sense of pride that comes with being a teammate. I also think about the life skills that only sports could have taught me. I know that I am successful law student today because of the time management, communication, work ethic, and empathy I gained as an athlete.

I believe every person, including trans people, should have the same opportunities that I received. I am lucky to be one of the few athletes that had the opportunity to play at the collegiate level and I can confidently say that I do not, and never have, felt threatened by trans woman athletes because they are also woman athletes. I fully trust that the governing bodies in high school and college sport can adopt fair policies for trans athletes to play, just as they have been doing for more than a decade and throughout my athletic career. An outright ban, such as HB 2238, not only targets a single group of children from an opportunity to play a sport, but it targets out a single group of children from memories, friendships, and life skills that cannot be replicated elsewhere. The thought of HB 2238 deeply disturbs me. Trans girls should not be stripped of the experiences I have had based on isolated stories and inaccurate evidence blown out of proportion by the media. Sports are not

about winning and losing, it is much bigger than that. We, as Kansans, must look at the bigger picture and realize that HB 2238 only perpetuates hate and stereotypes. No child in the state of Kansas should be deprived of the opportunity to play sports, regardless of their gender identity.

For these reasons, I am in strong opposition of HB 2238. Thank you for your consideration.