

Opponent Testimony of HB2238  
For the Senate Education Committee  
March 6, 2023  
Hauna Slaughter  
Kansas resident, healthcare worker

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

I am writing as a life-long resident of Kansas, a parent of school-aged children, and as someone who works in healthcare serving the children of Kansas. I stand in opposition of this harmful bill and am asking you to vote "no" on HB2238.

ALL children should be allowed to participate in activities with their peers and that participation should not come with exclusive criteria. We do not exclude students from participating in sports based on their language, race, religion, economic status, sexual orientation, ability, or any other criteria. Why are we singling out and discriminating against transgender children who also want to participate? This bill unnecessarily targets transgender children, a group that makes up a very small percentage of the population. Transgender kids are already more likely to face bullying from their peers, thoughts of self-harm, and feelings of not belonging. This bill tells them that those feelings are valid and that they don't belong, and it sends a clear message that Kansas isn't a state that will support or protect their right to grow up the same as any other child. I ask you to think about what makes your own children unique. How would it feel to you as a parent or to your child if one of the unique things that make them who they are was the very thing that put a target on their back? How would you sleep at night knowing there were lawmakers out there aiming for that target and you felt powerless to stop it? How would your child feel living in a community knowing there were people who didn't support them or want them around? How would you pick yourself and your child up after each hurtful argument and attack against them? And how can you pass these laws knowing that there are parents and children in Kansas who have to answer these questions every single day?

Again, I ask you to please oppose this hurtful bill and all others like it. Make Kansas a welcoming and safe state for \*all\* of its residents. Thank you for listening and for your consideration.