

Opponent Testimony of HB2238
For the Senate Education Committee
March 6, 2023
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Chair Baumgardner and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent written testimony on House Bill 2238.

As someone who recently became employed in the state of Kansas, I wanted to express my extreme opposition to this bill. The so-called "Creating the 'fairness in women's sports' act" is about anything other than "fairness." As someone this bill would classify as a "biological woman," I am shocked and appalled at this an anti-trans legislation being brought forth under the guise of "protecting" the rights of women.

I am in staunch opposition to this bill that would ban trans girls from playing sports and open all young Kansas athletes up to invasive and unnecessary scrutiny. The implication that trans girls possess any kind of biological advantage over their cisgender teammates is, frankly, grounded in sexist rhetoric that values essentialist expectations and stereotypes surrounding sex; it implies there is a fundamental disadvantage athletes who are assigned-female at birth face compared to "genetic males." I reject this strongly as a former student athlete and woman. Moreover, as an educator and advocate for students of all sexes and gender identities, I reject the state's attempt to police the actions, options, and bodies of student athletes. To place restrictions on the basis of biological sex on young athletes and student athletic teams is abhorrent and un-American. Students of all identities and backgrounds deserve equal opportunity to participate in student athletics and team sports. Creating rigid barriers and restrictions on the principle of biological sex threatens the freedom of all student athletes, not merely those who identify as transgender or nonbinary.

I urge the legislative body to consider ways they could uplift and protect the rights of **all** student athletes, regardless of their assigned sex at birth.

I reject the committee's proposed legislation and its purported goal to "protect" female athletes by placing restrictions on the basis of sex. Such restrictions only serve to harm all students, not simply those who identify as transgender; yet the choice to specifically target and disproportionately harm this already fragile population is a profoundly despicable move on the part of a legislative body whose aim should be to represent and protect the freedoms of its population. This is a disturbingly un-American bill that threatens the liberties and privacy of student athletes; it goes against everything this country stands for, and does not reflect the will of this state's population. Listen to your constituents: please stand with the rights of student athletes, including those who are transgender and nonbinary and desperately need the support. These student's don't pose a threat to their teammates; legislation like this does.