

Opponent Testimony of HB2238  
For the Senate Education Committee  
March 6, 2023  
Holly Terrill  
Parent

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

My name is Holly Terrill, and as the parent of a school-aged transgender child, I oppose House Bill 2238. I strive to ensure that my son can experience everything that a child who identifies with the gender they were assigned at birth gets to experience. This includes the ability to participate in sports at school on a team matching his gender identity.

House Bill 2238 focuses on excluding including individuals whose gender identities are different from the gender they were assigned at birth based on their sex organs. It is not reasonable to make laws specially designed to discriminate against an entire group of individuals, especially children.

There is so much more to a person's gender identity than simply a binary physical differentiation of gender as divided between "male" and "female". Being accepted for the identity in which a person individually identifies is important for their emotional wellbeing, regardless of whether they identify as the gender they were assigned at birth or not.

No child would choose to make their life harder by deciding to identify as a different gender than the one for which they appear so that they could have a better chance to win at a K-12 sport. This bill creates the perfect opportunity for transgender children to be singled out and punished for wanting to participate and to belong and it has been my experience that people do not go in search of ways in which to be bullied by others. For the sake of my child and others like him, please do not pass this bill. Thank you.