

Opponent Testimony of HB2238
For the Senate Education Committee
March 6, 2023
Evan Washechek
Friend and Kansas Resident

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

My name is Evan Washechek, a Kansas resident and hopeful advocate for Trans Youth. I want to stand up against unnecessary, unprecedented and unbelievable discrimination and hatred that is laced in HB2238.

As a friend and family member of several LGBTQ+ individuals, this bill hits home. More moderate voices might point to a perceived small and local impact of the bill, but that would manipulate reality in a way that doesn't show this discrimination against Trans people, a group who suffers disproportionate violence, and increasingly becoming the lightning rod of main stream right wing political hatred. This bill is a "fix" for something that isn't a problem. The only thing that this bill really fixes, is those who proposed it and want to vote on it, to appeal to their hateful constituents. I hope that more people will be convinced and learn to understand that this kind of rhetoric is for show, taking the baton in a long line of social panics dating back to antisemitic blood libel. I sincerely wish that the committee will see reason above hatred, and think about those most vulnerable Trans youth who are yearning to be accepted and let them compete with their own gender that they identify.

In closing, this bill discriminates where it purports to help. It is political cover for elected officials at the cost of a marginalized community. It is wrong and a dangerous precedent. It will hurt and cost us the lives of Trans youth if it goes into effect.