

Testimony Submission - Kansas House Bill 2299

Personal Information

Full Name: Rachel M. Rolon

Organization (if applicable):

Email Address: rachel.rolon@gmail.com

Phone Number (optional):

Bill Information

Bill Number: HB 2299

Position: Opponent

Date of Hearing: February 7, 2025

Written Testimony

Thank you, chairwoman and committee. My name is Rachel Rolon, and I am a citizen of Kansas. I am opposed to this bill because I believe it can be broadly used to deny people's freedom of speech and peaceful assembly. In addition to people's ability to do this safely without spreading disease. Americans have always had the right to gather and oppose war and actions they did not believe in. As we saw last summer there were large amounts of people opposing the violence that was happening in Israel. I went to a few of the protests and encountered Jewish people who were passionate about stopping the violence against Palestinians and ending the war. People's opposition to violence does not equate hatred towards one group of people, it means they value life. With this value for life we saw these gatherings of people with folks wearing masks to make the space accessible to folks who are immunocompromised who wanted to have their voices heard, and to prevent the spread of any illness. I am concerned that including masks in this bill will incorrectly target people with disabilities and further disenfranchise this group from their right to freedom of speech and peaceful assembly. Additionally with the "Quad-demic" we are in at the moment it is imperative that we do everything we can to prevent another full blown pandemic and the excessive loss of life that can come with it. I am concerned this bill would restrict my freedoms as safely as a Kansan and that is why I am opposed to the bill.

Signature

Full Name (Typed): Rachel M. Rolon

Date: 2/7/2025