

Sarah Bricker
Resident

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Regarding House Committee on Education
Oral in-person Opposition to SB76

March 4, 2025

Chairman Estes and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sarah Bricker and I am a voter in Decatur County, Oberlin. I was born and raised in Kansas. I have worked in the Kansas public schools my entire career. I am writing today to urge the committee to vote NO on SB76.

I oppose this bill on a very personal level. This directly impacts our family because one of my children is transgender. We have seen first hand the importance of respecting a person's name and pronouns. When our school district began using our child's preferred name and pronouns, we noticed a huge change in our child. I remember his teacher coming to me and telling us how shocked she was at our child's instant boost of confidence and self-esteem. The support our school has offered has been amazing and we are so thankful our child has the support he needs to feel safe, secure, and normal.

As a public school educator, I see first hand the needs of our Kansas children. The first things that must be met in order for them to learn are their basic needs, some of which include food, sleep, and safety. Calling a child by the name and pronouns they feel most comfortable with definitely falls into the category of safety. When a child feels safe, seen, and heard, they have the ability to learn and flourish in their skills and talents. Putting something between an educator and their students feeling safe will cause so much harm and interfere with the child's ability to thrive as a student.

First, Kansas legislators take away Kansas trans kids access to medical care, interfering with the talented medical providers in the state of Kansas, trans kids, and their parents. Now you attack the very dignity of our trans youth. When will these hateful bills stop? We have seen through history what happens when a government tries to erase a marginalized group time and time again. It is never the side of history we want to be on, yet here we are. These bills will not make my child or other Kansas trans children any less trans. But it will strip them of yet another right they deserve as a child of the United States and Kansas.

This bill, SB76, violates the First Amendment Freedom of Speech. It is also a violation of Title IX and the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution. It violates my child's right to privacy and equality. It puts yet another target on their back, from our politicians who are trying to erase the existence of my child and Kansas children like him. Kansas transgender youth deserve their freedom of speech and expression, just like everyone else. They deserve an education where they are treated with respect and decency. They deserve a school that is safe and welcoming to all. They deserve going to schools where they feel safe, seen, and heard, so they can learn and grow just like their peers.

I urge you to vote NO on SB 76.

Sincerely,

Sarah Bricker