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SB 76 Enacting the Given Name Act

Opponent

Oral/Written Testimony

March 4, 2025

Hello and thank you for taking the time to listen to people who oppose this bill. It is my understanding that elected officials serve their constituents and act on their behalf. SO it is important that you listen to my story.

I, my ex husband and all 3 of our children were born in Kansas. For the last 25 years I have lived in Lawrence. Lawrence has provided my children with an idyllic childhood filled with safe and happy memories. My ex-husband and I were strong Christians. We oversaw ministries, lead groups, and taught people the bible. So as you may imagine, it was pretty shocking when our youngest child, a boy, started showing signs that he was different. We kept excusing it as a phase since we weren't supposed to have one of "those kinds of children". After all, we were the ones doing everything right. As the years passed, the behaviors only increased in intensity. As young as 3 years old we were having to tell our child that they were not a girl. We repeated countless times, "You are a boy. God made you a boy and God doesn't make mistakes." Once I finally began to truly listen and see my child for what she was, I realized, if I am telling my child that God made her and God doesn't make mistakes and she continues to feel the way she does...that means I am telling my child that she is clearly not the creation of God and therefore SHE is the mistake.

I am proud to say that today my daughter is a healthy, happy and vibrant girl who quite literally spreads joy and sunshine everywhere she goes.

This bill makes no sense. Since when have laws been created to police the names that people go by? Why is there such a push to control this community? To strip away MY rights as a parent? No one knows my child better than I do. You are stripping away every form of protection for the most vulnerable children. This is sick and disgusting. For a group of supposedly conservative and Christ loving people, your actions speak to the contrary. You know there is another name for people obsessed with the genitalia of children. They are called pedophiles, and you are more concerned with what is or isn't between the legs of children than protecting them. You are passing these laws based on fear and control. How incredibly weak of you.