



*End discrimination based on
sexual orientation and
gender identity*

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SB 76
Opponent
Oral Testimony
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Chair Estes and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony in opposition of Senate Bill 76 on behalf of Equality Kansas

SB 76 is a harmful bill. The bill talks about free speech. However, I don't see how not letting students call themselves by the name that they want to go by is free speech. This bill talks about names on birth certificate. Does this mean that anyone who has a nickname now must be called by their proper name? How many of you in this room when you were in school went by a nickname? How many of you have kids or grandkids in school who use a nickname. This bill would affect them too. This bill is very clearly aimed at trans people, but it does not appear that you have thought about the scope of the bill and how it would affect others.

This bill also puts teachers and other school staff in a very difficult position. Making teachers deadname their own students is harmful not only to the student's mental health, but also the relationship between the student and the teacher. School is already difficult enough with school shootings and bullying, and children coming to school with the problems going on at home. Do we

really want to make teachers jobs harder. Teachers are already leaving the field due to pay and stress of the job. Let's not make their lives harder and make it more difficult for us to find quality teachers.

In conclusion I am asking you to vote no on SB 76, This is a harmful bill that will make students, parents, and teachers lives more difficult.