

## **Position:** Proponent, Senate Bill 76 Submitted to the House Committee on Education March 4, 2025

Written Testimony of Catherine Gunsalus, Director of State Advocacy, Heritage Action for America

Chair Estes and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of <u>Senate Bill 76</u> (SB 76). My name is Catherine Gunsalus, and I represent Heritage Action for America, a national grassroots organization with two million conservative activists nationwide, including thousands of Kansans.

Heritage Action supports SB 76 which requires school district employees to use names and pronouns consistent with students' biological sex and birth certificates unless otherwise directed by parents.

K–12 schools across the country, including those in deeply conservative areas, have started addressing children by names that are not theirs and using pronouns that differ from their sex—without their parents' knowledge or consent. Changing names and pronouns is the first step in the implementation of radical gender ideology, which eventually leads to life-altering drugs and irreversible medical experiments.

SB 76 is a common-sense measure to protect children in Kansas and ensure that parents are in charge of the decision-making when it comes to the upbringing and education of their kids. Not only does the bill strengthen parental rights, but it also includes protections against compelled speech for teachers and staff who value the freedom of their conscience. SB 76 ensures that referring to kids by their given name and biological sex is safe for students and school employees.

Several other states have enacted legislation similar to SB 76. Kansas has the opportunity to lead by passing SB 76 and protecting parents, students, and school employees.

Heritage Action supports SB 76, and we urge you to vote YES.

Catherine Gunsalus Director of State Advocacy Heritage Action for America