

Katy Andrus
Educator
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SB 76 Enacting the Given Name Act

Opponent
Written

March 4, 2025

I am writing in strong opposition to SB 76 which would cause irrevocable harm to Kansas school communities. This bill is deeply concerning to me as a Kansan and life-long educator. I was born and raised in Kansas and I have worked in education for eighteen years.

One of our most central duties as educators is to provide a safe place for students to learn and grow. SB 76 would make Kansas schools punitive and degrading. If SB 76 becomes law, teachers and students will both suffer for it.

Data indicate that 82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide, with suicidality highest among transgender youth ([Austin, Craig, D'Souza, McInroy](#)). I have worked with several transgender youth in my years in education. It is hard enough to find yourself as a young person let alone as one who is experiencing life as a gender that does not align with their true identity.

The harmful effects of deadnaming and misgendering students are well researched and proven. Scholars, activists, and community members agree that the most sensitive and supportive way to interact with transgender youth is to respect their gender identity by using their affirming names and pronouns ([Coolhart & MacKnight, 2015](#); [Grossman & D'Augelli, 2006](#); [Hill et al., 2017](#); [Sausa, 2005](#)).

This also affects me very personally as my godchild and cousin are both transgender kids attending Kansas schools. If this bill becomes law, my family will suffer. These kids deserve the same support and respect as any other child. Using someone's correct pronouns and names harms no one. I am asking you please, do not punish my family and other children for bravely being who they truly are.

Children and teachers are facing enough stressors and pressure in their lives and in our schools. I implore you not to allow SB 76 to pass into law. Thank you for this opportunity to share my testimony.

Samantha Armistead

Private Citizen

SB 76

Written Only

Opponent

3/4/2025

Chair Estes and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 76 with you today. My name is Samantha Armistead and I am a voter in Overland Park/Johnson County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SB 76

I have been an elementary public education teacher in Kansas for the last 14 years. This bill takes away a student's right to self-determination and free speech. It promotes bullying and will have dire consequences on the mental health of many students. My top priority is always the safety of my students. SB 76 endangers many vulnerable students. The senate needs to spend their time working to improve the education and quality of life of all Kansas children instead of vilifying 1% of children.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SB 76. Thank you.

Greer Banks

PRIVATE CITIZEN

SB 76

WRITTEN ONLY

OPPONENT

3/4/2025

Chair Estes and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 76 with you today. My name is NAME and I am a voter in Johnson County/Overland Park. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SB 76

Children need to be protected. Using someone's preferred name / pronouns does not in any way harm them or others, and in fact, can be life saving. We want children to excel in school, that means letting them be happy as who they are, and the rest of you MOVING ON. Bullying in schools is already a problem, especially against LGBTQ+ people (I've seen it). Do not give the bullies more fodder.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SB 76. Thank you

Judi Barkema
jabarkema@gmail.com
Kansas Citizen
March 4, 2025
House Education Committee

Opponent

Representative Estes and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my thoughts on SB 76. My name is Judi Barkema and I am a voter in Lenexa. I'm writing today to ask the committee to vote NO on SB 76.

Part of growing up is figuring out who you are and who you want to be in adulthood. There are a lot of moving parts in that learning process. Am I an athlete? Am I studious? Do I like science? Is art my thing? Am I organized? Is messy a better fit for me? And in today's world, some youth are asking if their birth gender is the gender that fits for them. All of these choices are very personal. No one can decide for someone else.

Teachers and educational professionals are specifically trained to help youth navigate the process of figuring out who they are and who they want to be. If a youth wants to experiment with using different pronouns or names, their free speech rights protect their ability to experiment. And we need teachers and educational professionals to support our youth as they explore their options.

SB 76 will harass youth, teachers, and educational professionals. The damages included in the bill will create a hostile environment for youth needing space to explore their identity and the educational professionals trained to support all our youth. I personally know young adults who are better citizens because they have found the identity and pronouns that fit who they are.

In addition, as a Christian, I am called to love my neighbor. Not just the neighbor that looks and acts like me, but everyone. SB 76 is the opposite of loving my neighbor.

A NO vote for SB 76 supports the development of youth as good citizens, supports our teachers and educational professionals, and lives up to the Christian call to love all our neighbors.

Please vote no on SB 76. Thank you.

Tom Barker, Ph.D.
Educator / Parent
Senate Bill 76 Opposition - Written Testimony Only
House Committee on Education
Email Address: tomwbarker@gmail.com

February 27th, 2025

Chair Estes and House Committee on Education Members:

My name is Tom Barker and I am writing as a public school educator in opposition to Senate Bill 76 (SB 76). I have had the privilege to be a public school teacher for the past twelve years. Having completed my Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Kansas, I choose to work in the K-12 setting instead of further working in higher education. I could rave on for hours about the trials and challenges of being a public school teacher, while also noting many of the successes I have seen. Simply put - I love my job and glad that I have found my calling. I am also grateful for my son's public school education and the many opportunities it has allowed him to have.

My opposition to this bill is that I believe it threatens the well-being of students. As an educator, students come into my classroom with a variety of backgrounds and needs. My job is to simply meet them where they are at and educate them the best I can. Over the years I have had several students who were transgender and use a pronoun or name that may be different then assigned at birth. I hope that by using the name and pronoun that they wish to be used in my class helped them to feel more comfortable and allowed me to build a relationship of trust with them. These relationships are key to being a successful learner in the classroom. I have seen students whose parents have struggled with their student's gender dysphoria and have often had school be the only safe place that reinforces their self-worth.

Additionally, I oppose this bill because it allows for harassment of transgender students by their peers. I find it completely unacceptable that even with a parent's written consent, this bill would allow fellow students to harass and bully a transgender student by not using their preferred name or pronouns, as those who choose to target transgender students cannot be punished. This would create serious issues within a school environment and lead to the decrease in school being a safe place for all students.

Lastly, adolescents is already a difficult time for students as they try to figure out who they are and what they want their roles to be in our society. Transgender youth already have a lot of struggles already in coming to terms with who they are despite societal norms. As research has indicated, like that published in *Nature Human Behavior*, states that have implement anti-transgender laws typically show an increase up to 72% in suicide rates for those between the ages of 13 and 17. I believe that enacting this bill as state law would lead to a similar effect

in Kansas and I cannot sit idly with the threat that this may put more pressure on a former, current, or future student to question their self-worth.

I hope that you will think about these youth and their self-worth as you consider this bill and vote in opposition to it.

Anne Bauer

alhbauer@hotmail.com

Private Citizen

3/4/2025

Opponent

Representative Estes & House Education Committee, thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony as a constituent & concerned citizen & parent. My name is Anne Bauer and I am a voter in Wyandotte County, Kansas City (66109.) I am writing today to ask the committee to vote NO on SB 76.

As a parent in the state of Kansas, I know how important safe & supportive schools are to the future of our state. I believe that SB 76 strongly undermines this intention and will have devastating effects on the safety & wellbeing of students across the state of Kansas.

Schools have a legal responsibility to respect every student's gender identity, regardless of whether they have yet had the opportunity to legally update their names or gender markers.

Denying students the right to use their gender-affirming name or pronouns at school may be a violation of Title IX and the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution. Courts across the nation have consistently ruled that refusing to use someone's gender-affirming name and pronouns constitutes gender-based harassment, which infringes upon their constitutional rights.

By ensuring that schools respect these basic rights, we can create an inclusive and supportive learning environment for all students.

I respectfully urge you to consider the serious implications of any law that would violate students' privacy and compromise their safety. A student's right to be referred to by names and pronouns consistent with their gender identity is deeply tied to their privacy and protection. By respecting students' identities, we help safeguard transgender and gender-diverse students from bullying and discrimination in schools. When teachers or staff misgender or deadname a student, it sets a dangerous precedent for their peers, making it more likely for the student to experience harassment and emotional harm. This is not just a matter of respect - it is about ensuring a safe and supportive learning environment for every student.

This proposed bill represents a politicized attack on our dedicated educators and educational professionals, including teachers, professors, counselors, principals,

librarians, and others who work tirelessly to support our students. The damages section of this bill is overly broad, paving the way for lawsuits based on overheard conversations, even when the individual bringing the lawsuit was not involved in the conversation at all. This opens the door to unnecessary litigation and makes it nearly impossible for educators to protect themselves, even if they are trying their best to comply with the law. It is unrealistic and invasive to expect every school employee to be fully aware of every student's name and sex as listed on their birth certificate, nor should it be.

The unenforceability of this bill could lead to excessive administrative burdens on our local schools and higher education institutions, costing both time and money defending against frivolous lawsuits.

Politicians should stop this intrusion into classrooms and schools across the state and out of the lives of students and families they do not know. This reckless overreach would only undermine the ability of educators to do their jobs and create safe, healthy learning environments for all students.

Thank you again for your time, listening to the significant concerns of parents, citizens & voters in your state. Kansas children are ALL our children. Please vote NO on the passage of SB 76.

Thank you.

Bev Baumgartner

College Hill United Methodist Church

SN 76

WRITTEN ONLY

OPPONENT

3/3/2025

Chair Estes and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on SB 76 with you today. My name is Bev Baumgartner and my pronouns are she/her. I am a voter in Sedgwick County, rural Derby, KS. I write today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SB 76

Self-expression and self-determination are deeply held American values. As a youth pastor, I have experienced firsthand the blessings of calling young people by the names they acknowledge for themselves. By chance, I recently connected with some youth from a former church. I didn't seek them out, but they came to my car door to hug and greet me. Why did they do that? I like to think that, in respecting who they told me they were when I was their pastor, I helped them become more solid in their sense of agency and belonging in the world. I showed them respect and reflected their power back to them. Agency and freedom are long-held Kansan values. SB76 seeks to remove agency and freedom from some of our most vulnerable Kansans and the educators who support them.

Chair Estes and all, where is the benefit in preventing young people from expressing who they are? Why do you want to hold others back from enjoying the fullest gifts God has given them? Please do not let this harmful bill pass. Thank you.

Opponent of SB 76
For the House Education Committee
Tuesday, March 4, 2025
Kristen Blackton
Private Citizen

Chair Estes and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 76. I am urging the committee members to vote **no** on SB 76 as it infringes upon the first amendment free speech rights of students and teachers and seeks to make classrooms unsafe for LGBTQ+ students.

I taught middle school English for ten years at a parochial school. During my time in the classroom, I met hundreds of students, some of whom identified as LGBTQ+, and a few of whom were transgender. At the beginning of one of my final years in the classroom, one of my students asked me to call them by a different name than what was printed on their birth certificate. So, I did. The result? That student felt **welcomed** and **affirmed** when they were in my classroom. They smiled and shared their talents and dreams with us. In other words, the result was that a student was able to learn and grow because they felt safe. This is exactly what teachers seek to do: support students so that they can grow in confidence and skills and begin to reach their full potential.

If SB 76 becomes law in Kansas, there will be negative ramifications for both teachers and students. As someone with extensive time spent in a classroom, I know how disruptive it will be for teachers across this state to carry the anxiety of potentially facing a lawsuit for simply supporting and affirming a student. SB 76 also undermines the spirit of unity and solidarity that good teachers establish within their classes throughout the year. Specifically, the damages section in this bill is too broad and opens the path for litigation based on overhearing conversations as it does not require the person who sues for damages to be involved in the conversation at all. How could one bring together a classroom community when in constant fear that treating a student with respect and care will lead to someone else in the school suing you? During a time when we are facing a shortage of qualified teachers, this will be a **deterrent** for many people thinking of entering the education profession.

As a parent, I teach my daughter about respect and care for others. Using a student's preferred name and pronouns is one example of doing just that. Every Kansas student has the right to be called by their gender-affirming name and pronouns. Not only is this a matter of empathy and respect, there are also legal obligations to be considered. Denying students the right to use their gender-affirming name or pronouns at school may constitute a violation of Title IX and the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

To close, I want to emphasize that this bill is, ultimately, unenforceable. As a middle school teacher, I saw upwards of 50 students a day, and many high school teachers see upwards of 100 students a day. It is impossible for every teacher to know every student's name and sex that is on their birth certificate. **Every year**, when it came time for my eighth grade students to graduate in May, I learned that a student went by a name that was not on their birth certificate because they went by a nickname, a middle name, or sometimes, a completely unrelated name. Calling them by this different name had *no bearing* on anyone's ability to learn. It just made that student feel good to hear the name or nickname they preferred. There will be more burdens, both administratively and financially, placed on an already burdened education system if this bill is to pass.

I encourage the members of the committee to vote **NO** on SB 76.

Thank you for your time,

Kristen Blackton
Shawnee, KS

Dear Representative Susan Estes,

I am writing to you as a constituent in your district to urge you to please oppose two bills would harm vulnerable kids in Kansas, SB 76 & HB 2311.

SB 76 threatens our teachers, coaches, and other school employees with frivolous lawsuits. It violates students' privacy and puts their safety at risk by making the private information on their birth certificate public. This bill claims to be about free speech, but bans every single school employee from using a student's nickname.

HB 2311 may be well intentioned, but the bill language puts even the most extreme beliefs by adults over the wellbeing of Kansas kids. Families of faith aren't be denied the right to adopt or foster kids. In trying to resolve this non-issue, this bill would protect practices that are widely considered abusive, such as conversion therapy, and put state agencies and its workers at risk of lawsuits over placements that are in the best interest of the child if the prospective parent disagrees.

Bills like this are dangerous, irresponsible, and bad for Kansas.

Please oppose SB 76, HB 2311, and any other bills that put politics over people.

Sincerely,
Joan Bledsoe

Jessica Bright

Private Citizen

SB 76

Written Only

Opponent

3/4/2025

Chair Estes and Members of the Committee, thank you for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 76 with you today. My name is Jessica and I am a voter in Olathe. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SB 76.

This law would put students at risk of bullying and violence while impeding their privacy. Trans people have repeatedly stressed how damaging deadnaming and misgendering is to mental health, increasing the risk of self harm in a group which is already at highest risk of self harm due to the harmful, false rhetoric which is often repeated about them.

Thank you again for hearing my thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SB 76. Thank you.

Ryann Brooks
ryann.brooks@gmail.com

SB 76 Enacting the Given Name Act

Opponent
Written
March 4, 2025

Dear Members of the House Committee on Education:

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding Senate Bill No. 76, the "Given Name Act," which would require school employees to use only names and pronouns consistent with students' birth certificates and biological sex unless they have written parental permission.

I believe this legislation contradicts core Christian values of compassion, dignity, and respect for all individuals.

I respectfully urge you to consider the following concerns:

- This bill would cause substantial harm to students whose gender identity differs from their assigned sex at birth. Research consistently shows that transgender and gender-diverse youth experience significantly higher rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide when they are not accepted and supported in their identities. By forcing educators to deny students' identities, this bill could contribute to psychological distress among an already vulnerable population.
- The teachings of Jesus emphasize compassion, especially for those who are marginalized. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus consistently reached out to those who were outcast by society, treated them with dignity, and elevated their humanity. In Matthew 25:40, Jesus teaches that "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." This bill would compel educators to act in ways that could harm rather than heal.
- The commandment to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31) is central to Christian ethics. This love is not conditional based on someone's identity or conformity to expectations. Jesus taught inclusion rather than exclusion, acceptance rather than rejection. A policy that forces educators to potentially cause distress to students by refusing to acknowledge their identities seems counter to this fundamental teaching.
- While the bill purports to protect free speech, it actually infringes upon the religious freedom of educators whose faith calls them to affirm and support all students. Many people of faith, including Christians, Jews, Muslims, and others, believe that their religious duty is to treat others with dignity and respect, which includes honoring how individuals identify themselves.

Beyond the moral and ethical issues, this bill creates practical problems for educators who would be caught between their professional duty to support student wellbeing and a legal

requirement that may undermine that duty. It also risks increasing litigation against schools and draining resources that could be better used for education.

I urge you to reject Senate Bill No. 76 and instead support policies that foster dignity, respect, and compassion for all students. Let us follow the example of Jesus who embraced those on the margins and called us to do the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryann Brooks

April Burnett

PRIVATE CITIZEN

SB 76

WRITTEN ONLY

OPPONENT

3/3/2025

Chair Estes and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 76 with you today. My name is April Burnett and I am a voter in Topeka, KS. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SB 76.

I am currently a social work student at Washburn University, and I worry about the ramifications this bill would have on school social workers across the state. The state of Kansas already has a severe deficit of social workers, and this bill would mean that a social worker employed by a school district or secondary institution could be under risk of litigation. One of the core principles of social work Code of Ethics is respecting the inherent dignity and worth of a person. This bill would present a threat to social workers, because they would be under risk of litigation for following the required Code of Ethics. One of the standards listed in the NASW Code of Ethics is 3.09d - "Social workers should not allow an employing organization's policies, procedures, regulations, or administrative orders to interfere with their ethical practice of social work." If a social worker could face legal action for upholding an ethical standard, it is extremely likely that this could interfere even subconsciously with their practice. Another social standard listed in the NASW Code of ethics is 3.09e - "Social workers should act to prevent and eliminate discrimination in the employing organization's work assignments and in its employment policies and practices." If this bill is passed, that would make upholding this standard virtually impossible, as not discriminating against student's personal identities would become something allowable by law. If this bill is passed, how many social workers will choose to not work in schooling or educational fields because they are worried about litigation? With Kansas already having a severe child mental health crisis and a deficit of social workers, this bill would do more harm than good on this front, let alone because of free speech and non-discrimination purposes.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SB 76. Thank you.

Melissa Arroyo

PRIVATE CITIZEN

SB 76

WRITTEN ONLY

OPPONENT

3/3/2025

Chair Estes and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 76 with you today. My name is Melissa and I am a resident of Overland Park in Johnson County. I am writing you today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SB 76.

Referring to someone by their chosen names and pronouns is a simple act of kindness that positively impacts the health and well-being of trans individuals and their families. But it's not just kindness, it's also the correct way to refer to someone. We have vast scientific evidence that suggests biological sex is influenced by genetics, hormones, and environmental factors. Chromosomes are only one slice of that pie. I understand respecting people's pronouns may seem overwhelming and inconvenient at first. I remember feeling that way the first time I met a trans person, and I made mistakes along the way, but it got easier each time I tried.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my experience and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SB 76. Thank you.

Janelle Arnett Campbell

PRIVATE CITIZEN

SB 76

WRITTEN ONLY

OPPONENT

3/1/2025

Chair Estes and Members of the Committee: Thank you for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 76. My name is Janelle Arnett Campbell and I am a voter in Wyandotte County, Kansas City. I am writing to encourage the committee to vote NO on SB 76.

As a social worker and a parent in the Kansas City, Kansas public school district, SB 76 is deeply concerning. All students have a right to be called their chosen name, regardless of what is listed on a birth certificate. Respecting students' names and pronouns is necessary to protect transgender and gender diverse students from bullying and discrimination at school.

The bill is completely unenforceable which may lead to excessive administrative burdens on our local schools which already struggle with basic staffing. Burdening schools with this requirement would be a ridiculous use of taxpayer money in school.

Student names are not a political issue but are currently handled appropriately by multiple school professionals. Political invasion into schools, with this bill, undermines educators from focusing on student needs and learning.

Once again, thank you for hearing my thoughts on this bill. Please vote NO on SB 76.

Amy Carter

Private Citizen

SB 76

Written Only

Opponent

3/4/2025

Chair Estes and Members of the Committee, my name is Amy Carter and I am a proud parent and voter in Overland Park. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SB 76.

The transgender community is just the latest community to be villainized, scapegoated and blamed for our country's problems. This bill poses a dangerous and harmful threat to the rights and well-being of trans students. By banning school employees from using a student's chosen name and pronouns unless they align with their birth certificate, the bill strips away the fundamental respect and recognition that all students, especially trans youth, need to thrive. Trans students already face significant challenges in a society that often fails to affirm their identities, and this bill makes it even harder for them to feel seen, heard, and validated in educational environments.

What's even more concerning is the inclusion of a damages clause, allowing anyone who feels "harmed" by hearing the correct pronouns or name used to sue for monetary damages. This opens the door to legal action based on the discomfort or bias of others, even if they aren't directly involved in the interaction. It allows for an unsafe and hostile environment to be created, where educators and students alike may fear legal repercussions simply for supporting or respecting a trans student's identity. Even if an education professional tried to follow this law to the letter, it would be nearly impossible for them to avoid the risk of legal action. There is no practical way to ensure that every school employee and student knows each individual's name and sex as listed on their birth certificate, nor should there be.

The bill also misuses the principle of free speech. While it claims to protect academic freedom and speech, it ignores the rights of trans students to express their gender identity freely. True free speech should encompass the right to be who you are, to express yourself authentically, and to have your identity respected. This bill prioritizes the speech and beliefs of those who oppose gender-affirming practices over the rights of trans youth, undermining their right to privacy and self-determination.

Ultimately, this bill will not protect students—it will hurt them. It sends the message that trans students' identities are not valid or worthy of respect and puts their safety, well-being, and sense of belonging at risk. Schools should be places where all students feel safe and supported, and this bill will create division, fear, and harm, particularly for the most vulnerable among us. Politicians need to put an end to this overreach into classrooms and schools across the state, as well as into the lives of students and families they don't understand. This careless use of government power would hinder educators from doing their jobs and prevent the creation of healthy, supportive learning environments.

Thank you all for hearing my thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote NO on the passage of SB 76.

COLLEEN CUNNINGHAM

PRIVATE CITIZEN

SB 76

WRITTEN ONLY

OPPONENT

3/4/2025

Chair Estes and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 76 with you today. My name is Colleen Cunningham and I am a voter, a parent, and a former teacher in Overland Park. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SB 76.

As a former teacher, this bill is alarming. In the upper grades, teachers have hundreds of students. It is not practical to expect teachers to look at the birth certificate of every student and re-learn names and/or genders that differ from how students are known now. Thinking about substitute teachers, these challenges multiply. We already have a shortage of teachers and substitutes; I believe that adding this threat of legal action if a mistake is made is likely to compound an already existing problem.

I also have big concerns for trans students' safety and learning under this bill. As a teacher, the work that students and I did relied on a level of basic trust and respect between us. That trust doesn't happen when teachers repeatedly call students by the wrong name. I asked my middle school daughter about this issue, and she told me that there are a few trans kids at her school, with whom she attended elementary school. The only reason she knows that they're trans is that she knew them in early elementary before they transitioned. Many of their middle school peers only know them as their current name and gender. Forcibly outing these kids would almost certainly lead to bullying and potential threats to their safety.

The bottom line is this appears to be an example of burdensome regulation, which would certainly cause or compound more problems than it would solve.

I appreciate your hearing my concerns about this bill, and again, I encourage you all to vote NO on the passage of SB 76. Thank you.

Eniko Darvassy

Private Citizen

SB 76

Written only

Opponent

3/3/2025

Chair Estes and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 76 with you today. My name is Eniko Darvassy and I am a voter in Johnson County/Olathe. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SB 76.

I come across many teachers and trans kids and I believe this kind of influence into the teacher-student relationship is very harmful. We should be able to call kids their preferred nick names without a parent's written consent. Our teachers have plenty on their plate, now they will have to watch over their shoulders on someone reporting them? This is ridiculous. Don't require pronouns if you don't want, but this goes way too far.

I thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SB 76. Thank you.

Denisse Osorio De Large

PRIVATE CITIZEN

SB 76

WRITTEN ONLY

OPPONENT

3/3/2025

Chair Estes and Members of the Committee, I'm grateful to have the time to express my thoughts on SB 76. My name is Denisse Osorio De Large, I'm a voter in Johnson County, Overland Park. I'm writing today to encourage your committee to vote NO on SB 76.

Every Kansas student deserves to feel safe, respected, and affirmed at school. Denying students the right to be addressed by their gender-affirming name and pronouns is not only harmful but may also violate Title IX and the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution. Courts across the country have recognized that refusing to use a student's affirmed name and pronouns can constitute gender-based harassment. For my nephew, this has been life-saving. We love him, and want him to be seen for who he is.

For many students, school is a place of refuge, especially when they may not have support at home. Forcing teachers to disregard a student's identity puts those young people at risk for increased anxiety, depression, and even self-harm. It also places educators in an impossible position—either comply with the law and knowingly harm their students or face legal consequences for doing what is right.

This bill does not protect students; it endangers them. It does not support parents; it punishes educators. I ask you to stand with Kansas students, uphold their rights, and reject this harmful legislation.

Thank you for listening, I encourage you all to vote NO on SB 76.

Caroline Dean

United Church of Christ, Kansas Interfaith Action, Private Citizen

SB76

Written Only

Opponent

3/4/2025

Chair Estes and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 76 with you today. My name is NAME and I am a voter in YOUR COUNTY/CITY. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SB 76

This bill infringes on the private spaces of classrooms and the personal relationships between students and their teachers. Our school systems are already under tremendous pressure. Our families of students in the LGBTQ+ community are grieving and scared. Please respect their free speech. Please do not harm our children. These are children in my church, my neighborhood, my friend group and teachers in my children's schools. I ask you to have compassion and to have kindness to understand their point of view. I am reaching out to you today as a pastor, a mother, a neighbor and an engaged citizen. Please help create a world where our kids can thrive and our teachers can navigate their own personal relationships with students.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SB 76. Thank you.

Michael DeMent

Private Citizen

SB76

Written Only

Opponent

3/4/2025

Chair Estes and Members of the Committee:

I write as a Johnson County voter to urge the committee to vote NO on SB 76.

This bill imposes obligations on education professionals that would be virtually impossible to obey. It provides no means for ensuring school employees know every student's name and sex as listed on their birth certificate, nor does it account for accidental or incidental uses that would violate this measure.

At a time when we are demanding ever-greater results from our schools, this bill and its lack of enforceability - and the First Amendment issues it presents - will further degrade Kansas education by imposing needless, excessive administrative burdens and adding unnecessary costs associated with defending the institutions and its employees against frivolous lawsuits. And surely as a state we do not want to impose further barriers between teachers and students in terms of building effective learning-focused relationships.

Thank you for considering my testimony and, hopefully, for voting no on SB76.

SUSAN K DENNING

PRIVATE CITIZEN

SB76

WRITTEN ONLY

OPPONENT

3/4/2025

Chair Estes and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on SB76 with you today. My name is Susan K. Denning, and I am a voter in Douglas County. I am writing today to encourage you to vote NO on SB76.

I am a retired high school teacher and high school principal. I spent 30 years in public education, where my mission was to provide high quality education for ALL of the students in my care. As a principal, I was also responsible for ensuring a productive and caring school community for all of my teachers, students, and parents. There are several reasons why I urge you to vote NO on SB76.

1. It is unreasonable to assume that school employees know what it is on a student's birth certificate. In my 30 years in public education, I do not remember EVER seeing a student's birth certificate.
2. Refusing to call a student by the pronouns he/she/they and/or their parents may expect damages relationships with students and families. In order to be an effective teacher and administrator, building relationships is key. Teenagers and families can be difficult to build relationships with, and opposing them on issues of self-identity would only harm this relationship building process.
3. Calling students by a set of pronouns that differs from what they are called outside of the classroom is a recipe for targeting, bullying and harassment by others. This is unconscionable. No adult, let alone an education professional, should be asked to set up a student for targeting in this manner.
4. This intrusive practice is an example of harmful government overreach. It is dangerous and inappropriate for our state government to interfere with matters relating to personal identity and bodily autonomy for anyone, let alone minors. These matters should be between the child, the parents, and their own doctors. Policing personal decisions such as selecting one's pronouns is not an acceptable use of governmental responsibilities.
5. This bill is unenforceable. Education professionals cannot be expected to know what is on a student's birth certificate. Administrators cannot monitor every conversation between students and anyone else. Allowing people who have "overheard" a conversation to make a monetary claim of harm is unfair, dangerous, and invites abuse. We all know how conversations can be mis-heard and mis-interpreted, and how they could be weaponized by someone with an agenda

or ill intent. Passage of this bill would create chaos and usurp excessive amounts of time that would be better spent on providing quality education to all students.

Again, I thank you for hearing my thoughts on this bill. I believe my perspective as a retired educator is important to consider, and I encourage you to vote NO on the passage of SB 76. Thank you.

Kori Detmer

PRIVATE CITIZEN

SB 76

WRITTEN ONLY

OPPONENT

3/4/2025

Chair Estes and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 76 with you today. My name is Kori Detmer and I am a voter in Overland Park. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SB 76"

I am a Licensed Clinical Therapist and former School Social Worker. I have first hand knowledge of working with students in school and the importance of identity, respect, and exploration. I have worked and been a caring person for students of all identities including trans and nonbinary students. The current political climate has highlighted a small fraction of the population who are our most vulnerable. I sincerely beg of you to research the higher incidents of depression, suicide ideation, and suicide attempts amongst this population when they have no support and no ability to express themselves. I also beg you to research what the affect of just one supportive person can have. Denying teachers, fellow students, and other para professionals from the right to demonstrate compassion and understanding is literally playing with the lives of these children. Turning using preferred names and pronouns into an offense brought by any person because of their innate bias takes away from

the job of learning and provides another kind of bullying tool. We allow students to have nicknames or abbreviated versions of their name. Why are policing which names they choose and why it is important to them. When do we defend rights to self expression?

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SB 76. Thank you."

Eric DeVault

PRIVATE CITIZEN

SB 76

WRITTEN ONLY

OPPONENT

3/3/2025

Members of the Committee, thank you for giving me the time to share my concerns with SB 76. My name is Eric DeVault. I am a voter in Johnson County. Please vote no on SB 76

SB 76 will harm transgender people. This is a vulnerable community and this bill, if passed, will cause them harm. This is already a community who suffers from bullying on a local and national level. The transgender community also has one of the highest suicide rates of any demographic. The harm caused to the transgender community will only increase suicide rates among them. You have an obligation to the citizens of Kansas to protect the most vulnerable among us, and you can do that by rejecting this bill.

Thank you, again for listening to me. Please vote no on SB 76. Your citizens' lives matter and you make a difference with the decisions you make here. Thank you.

Matt Dickey

matt.dickey@inbox.com

SB 76 Enactive the Given Name Act

Opponent

Written

March 4, 2025

Chair Estes and Members of the Committee,

I am writing today to provide opponent testimony against Senate Bill 76. This bill is clear government overreach.

It is beyond a waste of the people of Kansas's money and resources being spent on something so benign. Imagine being a pro-deregulation, small government advocate thinking the state needs to be involved in what people call themselves.

Every one of you knows someone who does not go by the name on their birth certificate. Many of you even have spouses that do not adhere to this "rule". Imagine needing their parents' permission to have to call them by the name that they use.

This legislation is one of many recent bills that serves only one purpose: to discriminate against people you perceive as different than yourself.

Thank you for your consideration

Matt Dickey

Private Citizen

Gwyndolyn Dill

PRIVATE CITIZEN

SB 76

WRITTEN ONLY

OPPONENT

3/4/2025

Chair Estes and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 76 with you today. My name is Gwyn Dill and I am a voter in Johnson County, Lenexa. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SB 76

My son is trans, and he came out to us and his teachers at roughly the same time in middle school. He was anxious and in a constant state of depression for so many months prior to that, and the transition was made so much easier by the support he received from his teachers and fellow students. He has so many friends who did not receive support at home, and the only time they felt comfortable in their own skin was when they were at school and being provided support by the staff. My son has had more than one friend who has tried to commit suicide when they were not given support at home. I would imagine that by eliminating that support at school as well, the number would be higher.

Thank you for listening to my testimony, and I hope that you all vote no on the passage of the harmful bill, SB76.

jessica dill

private citizen

SB 76

jessica dill

OPPONENT

3/4/2025

I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SB 76.

it is discriminatory behavior and it goes against the constitution!

vote NO

KEVIN DILL

PRIVATE CITIZEN

SB 76

WRITTEN ONLY

OPPONENT

3/3/2025

Chair Estes and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 76 with you today. My name is Kevin Dill and I am a voter in Johnson County/Lenexa. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SB 76.

I do not understand the continued attack on the trans community. They are such a small percentage of the overall population, and they are being blamed for things outside of their control. These type of laws are done out of fear rather than understanding the situation.

No one is harmed by the use of pronouns and names that do not line up with an individuals birth certificate. This has been done for centuries, it was just called a nickname when we were kids. My mother, mother in law, grandmother and grandmother in law went by their middle name instead of the first name.

I would ask that you talk with teachers across the state, medical providers, psychiatrists (specializing in gender dysphoria), and the trans community on the use of the chosen pronouns, chosen name, and dead names prior to voting on SB 76. Understand why the use of chosen pronouns and a chosen name are important.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SB 76. Thank you.

LEMUEL DILL

PRIVATE CITIZEN

SB 76

WRITTEN ONLY

OPPONENT

3/4/2025

Chair Estes and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 76 with you today. My name is Lemuel Dill and I am a voter in Johnson County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SB 76.

This bill would do more harm than good to students in Kansas. Being able to express yourself at school is an incredibly important part of being young. Not all parents are supportive of their kids being different from the norm, and school is a place for kids to express who they are and learn more about themselves. By implementing SB 76, students rights to express themselves in school will be taken away. Trans kids will have no outlet to express who they are, which can lead to mental health issues, and sometimes, suicide. This bill will do nothing to help kids, but instead will put them at risk. Please think of the kids, they're just trying to experiment and discover who they are.

Thank you for listening to my concerns, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SB 76. Thank you.