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SB76: K-12 & Higher Education Name & Pronoun Ban for Minors

Opponent  
Oral testimony

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Thank you chairperson and committee members. My name is Rachel McDaniel and I am a Licensed Specialist Clinical Social worker in the State of Kansas. I have certificates in Somatic Experiencing, a trauma therapy approach and Conflict Mediation. I am also the valedictorian of a Christian seminary. I work in private practice psychotherapy and I have the privilege of serving the transgender population.

Our country is facing an identity crisis that will define who we are. I hazard a guess that you all are exhausted from listening to your community. We are reaching out to you in record numbers to tell you the will of the American people and the will of Kansans.

Senate Bill 76 attacks the smallest and most vulnerable parts of Kansas. I lean on the wisdom of the ordained minister John Ross Macduff when he said "Prejudice is the conjuror of imaginary wrongs, strangling truth, over-powering reason, making strong people weak, and weak people weaker."

As a social worker and expert on prejudice, this bill is prejudiced. This bill weakens Kansas and attacks our basic rights as Americans to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Senate bill 76 threatens the basic human rights that our country was built upon. This bill threatens to kill children. This bill threatens to jail and bankrupt teachers for letting children tell them who they are. This bill threatens teachers and gives them one more reason to leave our already understaffed schools.

Most importantly this bill threatens to kill children. Technological oligarchs can make your computer say whatever you like but that does not change the statistics. Policy like this kills. Not being safe in your own skin is trauma. This is something the transgender community shares with people of color, trauma simply for being born in the wrong skin. Trauma is one of the greatest

risks for suicide with up to half of all suicides connected to trauma. This is the future you are giving our children. Suicide is at an all time high with children and a leading cause of death. Children are being denied the most basic of human rights - LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS. The rising suicide rates is our future, the children, losing hope and choosing to die rather than face the world we are creating for them. When we are not safe to be ourselves we are not safe to be human.

I end my statement with a quote from Montesquieu, the man who inspired our founding fathers to separate the powers of government "An injustice committed against anyone is a threat to everyone." Thank you for your time, vote no on Senate Bill 76.