

Aidyn Lee
High School Student
Oral Testimony – Opponent
Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee
Senate Bill 63
January 28, 2025

Hello, my name is Aidyn Lee, and my pronouns are He/They. I am currently a High School student in Kansas.

I am a transgender man and have been out as transgender for 2 years. Though I have not done any transitions medically, social transitioning has been a huge part of my journey of discovery. The censorship and silencing of transgender people, especially trans kids and teens is a pressing matter that I hold very near to me as it affects me directly.

I have been raised and socialized as a female most of my life, and coming from a religious household I was told that expressing yourself as your assigned gender at birth was the only way of living. But the feeling of being in the wrong body and looking in the mirror to see someone that isn't who I am on the inside is one of the hardest things I've ever had to overcome. Living this life and having to grapple with the fact that this isn't who I am led me into a long spiral of depression, and eventually suicidal thoughts because how was I ever able to focus on my education and aspirations when I can't be myself to begin with.

When I came out, I began to socially transition. This was a huge moment for me that changed my life for the better. When I was finally able to dress masculine and present how I felt on the inside, I was no longer depressed, and finally could look in the mirror and see a glimpse of myself shining through. My biggest supports were teachers. Almost every teacher I told about my transition was very accepting and while they might not have understood it, they still tried. Teachers are some of the only people that make me feel safe and welcome in a space because they use my preferred name and pronouns. As the active president for my school's GSA, and having had many conversations with fellow trans and gender non-conforming students, I can confidently state that for many students, school is the only safe space for them to be out and their teachers are the only ones who see them for who they truly are. By passing this bill, it means my fellow trans peers and I won't be able to express ourselves freely amongst our peers. It also means that teachers will no longer be able to provide support to those students who need it most.

The passing of bill SB 63 will actively cause harm to trans children. Gender Affirming Care, be it medical or not, is lifesaving. Studies have shown that people who receive this care have increased mental health, better overall well-being, and reduced behavioral and emotional issues amongst children especially. The discontinuance of LGBTQ+ language and care in any setting will not stop children from being trans or queer. It didn't stop me. And it won't stop children in the future. The only thing it does is remove support for children who need it most.

This is why on behalf of myself and fellow trans children, I ask the Kansas Legislature to not pass this bill.

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