

Elise Flatland  
Representing my family  
HB 2426, Redefining Gender  
Opponent  
Written Only  
1/12/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee,

I write in opposition of HB 2426.

Last year, this legislature decided it had the right to step into my family's most private moments and force its opinions into medical decisions about my children. This year, you are going even further—trying to erase people by redefining gender itself.

This bill doesn't protect anyone. It doesn't solve a problem. What it does is take away the freedom to be seen and recognized for who you are—whether you are a child or an adult.

So I am begging you to answer this question honestly: **who is harmed?**

Who is harmed when a seventeen-year-old girl has identification that matches her appearance and affirms who she is? Who is harmed if that person is forty years old? There is no public safety issue here. There is no crisis. There is only fear being turned into law.

Once again, this legislature has chosen to single out a small, vulnerable group and make their lives harder. Instead of lifting people up, you are pushing them further to the margins. Instead of listening to families like mine, you are telling us that our children's identities are up for debate. This legislator is targeting minorities and taking away their dignity under the guise of legislation. Instead of addressing real problems facing Kansans—like healthcare access, education, or economic security—this body is choosing to police identity and micromanage people's lives.

This is my third year coming before you to defend my children's right to exist. To defend their right to dignity. To defend their right to grow up knowing their government sees them as human.

I am exhausted. I am angry. I am heartbroken. But I am also a mother, a mother who will always find the strength to support her children. I will continue to show up, to speak out, and to demand a future where my children—and all Kansans—can live openly, safely, and with dignity. We deserve a more inclusive Kansas, and we deserve leaders willing to build it.

Thank you,

Elise Flatland