



COUNTY OF LEAVENWORTH

From the desk of Commissioner Mike Stieben

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Proponent Testimony Regarding HB 2426
House Judiciary Committee
January 13, 2026

Chairwoman Humphries and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mike Stieben and I serve as a County Commissioner for Leavenworth County. Thank you for the chance to speak in support of HB 2426. This bill keeps biological sex as the standard for birth certificates and driver's licenses.

Counties carry out many day-to-day duties for the State of Kansas. We run elections, operate county jails, work with DMV systems, and help law enforcement and state agencies do their jobs. These tasks depend on records that are accurate, consistent, and reliable.

Birth certificates and driver's licenses are used for far more than personal identification. They are needed for court cases, voter registration, benefits, and booking someone into jail. If these records become subjective or fluid, counties end up with extra administrative work, added costs, and higher legal risks. HB 2426 gives clear rules so counties can avoid those problems.

If gender could be changed at will on core documents, counties would need software changes, new training, and coordination across many offices. There is no funding for these adjustments, and counties already handle many unfunded mandates. HB 2426 prevents another one from being added.

Counties are also responsible for keeping correct public records. Birth certificates form the factual starting point for legal and family matters and for research by public health officials. Keeping these records accurate supports the work of government at every level.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to advance HB 2426. This bill gives counties clear standards and protects the integrity of our public records.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Stieben
County Commissioner
Leavenworth County