

Aubrey Akright  
HB 2426 Opponent Written only  
Private citizen  
1/12/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2426 with you today. My name is Aubrey Akright and I am a voter in Wyandotte County, Kansas City, KS. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426"

HB 2426 will put into law inaccurate definitions relating to gender that will be used to discriminate broadly and create unsafe environments for trans, intersex, and gender diverse individuals.

Showing your ID shouldn't be a dangerous act. Transgender people face pervasive discrimination and hate-based violence just for being themselves. You need legal documents to get a job, open a bank account, go to school, or even get a library card. Laws that put transgender people at more risk of hate based violence for engaging in everyday actions that require showing their ID means that transgender Kansans could miss out on these important parts of life to protect their safety.

There is no law that protects transgender Kansans from discrimination and this bill increases that risk. This policy is disingenuous and dangerous to many Kansans, including members of the LGBTQ+ community. While this bill purports to protect women it, in fact, seriously endangers the lives of transgender Kansans by prohibiting individuals from accessing restrooms, domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, and other essential spaces and services.

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 HB 2426. Thank you.

Bailey Akright  
HB2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
Private citizen  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2426 with you today. My name is Bailey Akright and I am a voter in Wyandotte county. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426

I oppose because this will create an unsafe environment for gender diverse individuals

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 HB 2426. Thank you.

Jarrod Alley  
HB 2426 Opponent Written Only  
Private Citizen  
1/13/2026

Jarrod Alley Park City No

Everyone deserves to be who they are

Thank you

Sabrina Alley  
HB 2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
Private Citizen  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2426 with you today. My name is Sabrina Alley and I'm a voter in Park City in Sedgwick County. I'm writing to encourage you to vote NO on HB 2426.

All citizens should be protected, however there is currently little to no protection for transgender citizens. My son is transgender and the obstacles we've had to face as he grows up makes me worry about his future. As a parent, all I want to do is protect my son. Being able to do something as simple as get a driver's license shouldn't cause him emotional harm or potentially put him in danger. Blocking HB 2426 would be a weight off of my shoulders in worrying for him and his future. I beg of you to think about the effects this will have on so many people. Transgender people just want to live their lives as themselves, there is no agenda other than living a long and happy life.

Again, thank you so much for taking the time to hear my son's story and thoughts on this bill. I encourage you all to vote no on the passage of HB 2426. Thank you.

Thomas A. Alonzo  
HB 2426 opponent Written only  
Chair and Executive Director, Equality Kansas  
12/1/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my thoughts regarding HB2426 with you today. My name is Thomas A. Alonzo, and I am a voter in Kansas City, Wyandotte County, Kansas. I am writing today to encourage the committee to reject and vote no on HB 2426.

Why are legislators once again attempting to pass legislation that will add to an already dangerous and unsafe environment for transgender, intersex and gender diverse individuals. Transgender and other gender diverse individuals have been part of the human family since the first humans and will continue to be part of our human family no matter how many laws are passed, no matter how many individuals are harassed, bullied, abused, raped and even killed.

Our society is already a dangerous place for anyone that is deemed too different for those that have decided what is acceptably normal and what is not. One shouldn't have to risk one's safety or life by having to produce their ID. One shouldn't have to worry about being assaulted or harassed on the street because they are deemed too different. I know these experiences because I experienced harassment and assaults as a young queer man. I served in the US Air Force for 9 years and I witnessed aggressive and abusive behavior by military members hopped up on alcohol and other substances. I heard the stories of a group of guys assaulting a "queer" in the alley way too many times, the assaults on smaller, weaker, less masculine men in the dormitories on various bases across the country. Yeah, the US military.

This legislature like many others across this country have obsessed on gender diverse people, passing myriad laws, making life miserable for people who are only wanting to live their authentic lives. Why can't you let them do that? Why do you have to obsess on one of the most marginalized communities in humanity and wreak mayhem upon them even causing some to be physically and mentally assaulted and even murdered. Why?

There are no laws to protect gender diverse people. NONE. These bills are based upon lies, misinformation, fanning the flames of bigotry and queerphobia. How does one learn to hate so effectively?

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SYLVIE ALTHOFF  
HB 2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, I am writing to register my vehement opposition to the bill HB 2426. My name is Sylvie Althoff, and I am a voter in Douglas County, Kansas.

I urge you to vote NO on HB 2426 for both practical and moral reasons. Practically, HB 2426 represents a massive waste of government resources. It directs state bodies including the department of motor vehicles to invalidate and reissue documents for anyone who has followed official procedures to change their gender marker. What is the cost of locating, processing, and issuing all those driver's licenses and birth certificates? More importantly, why should the Kansas taxpayer's valuable funds be spent on such an errand?

Transgender Kansans holding state-issued identification that matches their gender identity poses no threat or damage to anyone—not to our fellow Kansans, and not to the state. That fact should be more than evident from the ruling of Judge Karen Arnold-Burger, who ruled against a similar policy last year and stated: "The district court committed an error of fact by concluding that there was evidence — any evidence beyond mere speculation — to support a finding that law enforcement would be immediately hindered in the identification of suspects, victims, wanted persons, missing persons, detainees, and others if the driver's license did not display the driver's sex assigned at birth."

In plain English: this law is unnecessary. It helps no one, and moreover, based on the relevant ruling from Judge Arnold-Burger and the Kansas Court of Appeals, it is unlikely to survive any legal challenges. Only 380 individuals changed their gender marker on their driver's licenses in an 11-year period; Members of the Committee, can you honestly say with a straight face that bothering such a small minority of the population is worth the time and expense involved in arguing, passing, implementing, defending, and ultimately repealing the proposed bill? Can you look your constituents in the eye and tell them you had nothing better to do, no actual problems that needed solving, that you needed to expend all this energy and tax dollars on making life harder for transgender Kansans?

This ties to the moral opposition to the proposed HB 2426. Members of the Committee: for the last ten years I have been a contributing member of my community. I work, I shop at local businesses, I attend concerts and plays, I participate in holidays and cultural events. I cook meals for my friends and neighbors who are sick or recovering from surgery. I am no different from the other residents of my town in every respect that matters save for the fact that I am transgender; yet that sole facet of my identity is apparently enough to warrant constant scrutiny and retribution from my home state. If my driver's license is forced to be reissued with a gender marker that does not match my identity, I will no longer be able to live safely in the state of Kansas; for our own safety, the effort that my family contributes to our community every day will

have to be moved to a different state. Isolating a minority group because of their minority status is wrong, and if you choose to pass HB 2426, you will be engaging in the persecution of me and people like me for absolutely no benefit to the state of Kansas.

Committee Members, you are charged with serving the people of Kansas. Ask yourselves: who would be served by passing HB 2426? I submit that no Kansan would benefit from the passage of this bill and thousands would be harmed—the transgender Kansans who would be made unsafe and unwelcome, and the rest of our communities who would lose out on our contributions to Kansan society.

I urge you, in the strongest possible terms, to do your duty to your constituents and vote no on the passage of HB 2426. Thank you.

# Testimony Against HB2426

My name is Jonathan Andresen, and I strongly oppose HB2426. The bill wants to define “gender” as someone’s assigned sex at birth, when that is wrong on many fronts. Primarily, it is factually incorrect. In research done by Historic England, a public body in the UK dedicated to helping people understand and appreciate the history of the British Isles, there is clear evidence that gender nonconforming people have existed for millennia. In the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, an individual born as a male became a priestess of the goddess Cybele. Based off all evidence found, they were able to live a happy and fulfilled life as a woman. If this individual had to live in a place with this bill instated, they would have been unable to live the way they wished. This bill also does not account for mistakes made by medical professionals, especially regarding intersex people. Intersex people, regardless of their genitalia, have their own gender identity which is not defined by their sex organs. Gender and sex are flat out different things. Sex is primarily biological/physical in nature, gender is a spectrum which in many cases cannot be properly defined purely through words. The amendment to K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 77-207 ignores decades of literature and scientific proof explaining how gender is not defined by biological sex. Attempting to force people back into identity boxes they do not fit into will inevitably do far more harm than good. The first amendment specifically protects freedom of expression, and I believe gender expression to be part of that. According to research done by the Trevor Project, 28% of LGBTQ+ individuals experienced threats or physical harm due to their gender identity or sexual orientation. 15% of young LGBTQ+ people attempted suicide. Suicidal thoughts may not be purely caused by one’s environment, but suicide attempts show an environment that needs to be kinder. We should all strive to be kind, accepting people. Discriminating against anyone goes against common decency and Jesus’ teachings to love thy neighbor. I am disappointed in and ashamed of the members of the Legislature who deem it necessary to write and/or promote bills which are specifically meant to target and discriminate against just a few percent of the population. Shame on you. Do not vote in favor of this bill.

Rev. Lora Andrews  
HB 2426 Opponent Written Only  
Private Citizen  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you for giving me time to share my position on HB 2426 with you today. My name is Rev. Lora Andrews and I am a voter in Kansas City, KS. I am writing to you today to encourage you to vote NO on HB 2426.

I pastor Roots Church, a new church in Roeland Park that is reaching young adults. It is not unusual for us to have 20%-30% of weekly attendees be transgender or nonbinary. Their presence and courage has inspired me and taught me so much about their lived reality.

This bill only serves to add additional fear to their daily lives. They already have to wonder how they will be received in the world and this bill aids in legal discrimination they could face from potential employers, landlords, and other places where you need to share your ID.

I fear that there is an increased desire to pass through quickly every single bill targeting transgender Kansans without real regard for the actual people these decisions are impacting.

When you see a bill and a policy, I see the names and faces of Christians who worship in my congregation every week. I see the people who pray for each other, who serve as volunteers, who study scripture together, who want to teach people about Jesus, and care deeply about the well-being of others.

Please oppose this bill that makes their lives harder and opens them up for potential discrimination.

Thank you for hearing my story as a pastor worried about her congregants. I encourage you all to vote no on the passage of HB 2426. Thank you.

Asa Aspholm  
HB 2426 OPPONENT SPEAKING  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
1/13/2026

Good morning, Chair Humphries and members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today.

My name is Asa Lee Aspholm. I live in Lawrence and I was born and raised here in Topeka, the capital city. I am writing this testimony today because I am strongly opposed to HB 2426 and any bill that attempts to take away the rights of Kansas citizens. I believe that it is important to maintain the current state of gender identification on state identification and continue to allow the rightful changes of official documents to reflect the correct gender of citizens of Kansas.

I care about this issue because I am transgender, as are many of the people that I love and care deeply about. In the face of great fear and uncertainty in my early teens, I held on to the fact that there are people working hard in my very own city to ensure that the future will be a better, safer place than the one that they knew, and that I would get to be known as who I truly am once I become an adult. At the time I faced bullying and harassment, gruesome physical threats, and overwhelming isolation. I continued to hold hope for a better future.

Now as an adult, I work hard to make sure that future comes true and to prove that the many scared kids in our very own state can have the same hope and trust that I did. I choose to support my friends when they face similar struggles. I choose to live my life authentically to prove for my younger self that it can be done. Yesterday, I visited the Douglas County Judicial and Law Enforcement Center and opened a petition to legally change my name with the plan to change my driver's license to match in both name and gender, to actually reflect what I look like and what the people in my community know me as.

Passing HB 2426 will forcibly out transgender people. In times of high tension, this can be uncomfortable at best, and dangerous at worst, as it allows people with violent, harmful intentions to target transgender people for what they imagine that person's genitalia might look like.

This is why accurate gender designation on my official documentation matters. For me, it is hope- recognition that I am respected by my state and that I can be proud to say that I am a Kansan. It serves as a barrier of safety that allows me to disclose private information to the people of my choice. I hope that, through the decisions made here today, I still get this opportunity.

For the wellbeing of Kansans, please oppose HB 2426. Thank you for your time.

Veronica Arlene Valentin Astacio  
HB 2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
Private Citizen  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2426 with you today. I am a voter in salina in saline county and I am writing to vote NO on HB 2426.

I was a very depressed kid. The best thing I have been able to do for myself, is my development into building myself into the person I was meant to be. I am trans and have people that I love that are also trans. The passage of this bill would endanger me and already vulnerable people and I encourage you to block this bill. I find that it is dangerous forcing someone to change their gender identity marking towards something that doesn't align with how they are. This bill would force people that have been on medication for decades to be outed at things like bars, the DMV, the movie theater, an employer.. What value is there to force a person with a full beard and deep voice with a female designation? To allow our community to be further discriminated against? What about a child born intersex? Should that child be forced by the state to take on a sex designation that doesn't actually make sense for their bodies? I answer lies not with the government of Kansas but with the individuals it pertains to.

This bill's only purpose is to further push discrimination as a value that all free Kansans should live to reject. Thank you for listening to my thoughts. Please have a conscience for Kansans that you walk amongst everyday, vote no on the passage of HB 2426. Thank you.

Sharon Avery  
HB 2426 Opponent Written  
Sharon Avery, Justice Ministry, First Congregational Church Topeka  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2426 with you today. My name is Sharon Avery and I am a voter in Shawnee County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426"

I have transgender friends who are suffering from your actions. They are afraid, even though they have good jobs and friends and are vital to this state. One is considering having to move out of KS. Please don't terrorize people for a non-existent problem. Please focus on the real needs of the state. My daughter played high school and college basketball and she is totally against this bill and similar ones.

Thank you.

Ashley Balza  
Private Citizen  
Written Opponent Testimony of HB 2426  
For the House Judiciary Committee

January 13th, 2026

Chair Humphries and members of the committee,

My name is Ashley Balza, a Kansan who deeply cares about our community's safety and well-being. I'm asking you to oppose HB 2426 because this bill will cause real harm, and create unnecessary barriers for our transgender, intersex, and gender diverse Kansan neighbors.

Laws like this don't make anyone safer, they just make life harder for people who are already at greater risk of violence and discrimination. Something as simple as showing an ID shouldn't be dangerous, but for transgender people, this bill would make that everyday act frightening and unsafe. IDs are needed for jobs, housing, school, health care, all the basic parts of life, and this bill would strip some Kansans of their ability to safely access those things. IDs representing people's gender identity help them live and work with dignity.

Everyone deserves to live authentically and be treated with respect. HB 2426 would deny many Kansans that basic right by forcing them to carry documents that don't reflect who they are. This bill sends a message that some of our neighbors don't belong, and that's not the Kansas I believe in. Instead of dividing people, we should be creating policies that make Kansas safer and more inclusive for all.

Mark Barlow  
HB 2426 Opponent Written Only  
Private Citizen  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you for affording me this opportunity to share my thoughts on HB 2426. My name is Mark Barlow and I am a voter in District 99. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

Of the 2.97 million people currently calling Kansas their home, only approximately 17,700 of us identify as transgender. That's 0.59% of us – less than half of one percent! I seriously question why we are expending legislative resources and taxpayer dollars to retroactively inflict further turmoil and suffering on such a population, a population already subjected to numerous forms of discrimination.

The terms “gender” and “sex” are often used interchangeably, but there are real differences between them. Attempting to eliminate any distinction between Sex-As-Assigned-At-Birth (“sex”) and Gender Identity (“gender”) via line-by-line editing of state legislation is not going to work. You cannot suppress reality in this manner. Humans are messy creatures, and sex as a concept is FAR more fluid than this legislation purports it to be. HB 2426 specifically references the DSM-5 and its definition of Gender Dysphoria. In this definition (and elsewhere in the mental health literature) the differences between SEX and GENDER are quite unambiguous. HB 2426 makes passing mention to gender dysphoria without seeming to grasp what this condition actually is, or how it confirms the presence of both Sex and Gender as discreet phenomena.

The statutory construction of these terms should follow from the medical and mental health fields. If your aim is to clearly define what Sex and Gender mean from the State's perspective, take your cue from the health professionals. You cannot issue legislation in defiance of medical fact. This bill may as well be trying to argue that South and North do not exist; that there is only East and West. We know better. This bill will only further complicate the lives of those whose lives are already complicated enough; and expend taxpayer dollars unnecessarily; and score cheap political points for politicians seeking to stoke the ignorance of their base.

Again, thank you for hearing my thoughts on this bill. I strongly encourage all of you to see pragmatic reason and vote NO on the passage of HB 2426. Thank you, and be well.

Eden Barnes  
HB 2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
Private Citizen  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts on HB 2426 with you today. My name is Eden Barnes, and I am a voter in Wyandotte County. I am writing today to strongly encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

I strongly oppose this bill on the principle that it is not based in any reasoning or logic other than control and suppression. This bill is setting a dangerous precedent for the way language can and will be used going forward at the state and federal level. If state legislators are allowed to disregard dictionary and legal definitions of terms on a whim, anything and everything will be up for debate. By conflating the terms of 'gender' and 'sex', and invalidating driver's licenses and birth certificates for the sake of restricting citizens' rights and protections, this bill is actively endangering more people. Even those who do fit into the 'man' or 'woman' gender identities that align with the social association of their assigned sex at birth, will become targets of harassment and discrimination. For people who don't fit neatly into those categories, this bill actively indicates that their lives are expendable and that they will not have equal rights and protections of other citizens under the law.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no on the passage of HB 2426. Thank you.

Leia Barnes  
HB 2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
Private Citizen  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2426 with you today. My name is Leia Barnes and I am a voter in McPherson. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426

We deserve to be treated as any other people with dignity and respect. Having a driver's license that does not match my other documents will cause much harm in mine and other peoples lives. I know you might think trans people are mentally ill and playing pretend. This is very real for us, and many of us don't wish we were burdened to be transgender. But we have no choice. I wonder why the government feels like this is the most important thing to get done when our country and state is falling into economic despair that will likely be impossible to repair in my life time. But no, the trans people are the problem... In case you can't understand sarcasm. I will reiterate that transgender people are NOT THE PROBLEM.

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 HB 2426. Thank you.

Hillary Barragan  
HB 2426 Opponent Written only  
Private citizen  
1/12/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2426 with you today. My name is Hillary Barragan and I am a voter in Reno county. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426

So many beautiful, wonderful people will be harmed by this bill if passed. My friends, my family, my neighbors and coworkers. Our identities matter on a personal and spiritual level, not on a political level. Politics has no place in our identities. We cannot allow politics to determine who we can be as human beings.

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 HB 2426. Thank you.

Cassandra Barrett, PhD MS CGC  
HB 2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
1/12/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you for your consideration of my statement on HB 2426. My name is Dr. Cassandra Barrett. I am a healthcare professional who works with families and children who have variations of sex characteristics (also known as differences in sex development or intersex). The following statements are my own and do not reflect the position or opinions of my employer. I am also a life-long Kansas and a voter from Lawrence, Douglas County. I am writing today to strongly encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

Biological sex has many components. Each of us has chromosomes, packages of genetic information about how to make out bodies. Each of these chromosomes houses thousands of genes, the actual instructions the body uses to form itself and function. The X and Y chromosome are very important in determining how our reproductive system is formed and functions, but there are many genes on other chromosomes that affect sex development as well. While genes are critical, the environment in utero and through out life has a lot of influence as well on how we develop. Together genes and external factors influence our hormone levels, our gonads (sperm, eggs), and shape of our genitalia. Hormones then also influence what we call our "secondary" sex characteristics- think levels of body hair, height, whether someone will go bald, etc. In short, sex is far more than one single feature of the body. Each of these factors can vary in many ways.

Because of this, we cannot simplify sex into two distinct categories. As written, your bill would directly harm Kansans who have variations of their sex characteristics. These types of variations are far more common than people realize, as they are not readily visible in many cases. Many people do not realize they have these variations until well into adulthood. A few common examples include Klinefelter syndrome, in which people who have male external genitalia have an extra X chromosome (as opposed to the typical XY). This causes them in many cases to have fertility issues and develop some physical characteristics more commonly associated with women like breasts. Their gonadal tissues generally fail to produce sperm, leaving them in a gray zone in your bill. Similarly, Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome (AIS) is a fairly common variation of sex characteristics. People with AIS have a vulva and are almost always assigned female at birth by visual inspection. However, they often have internal testicular tissue. This would make people commonly seen as girls and women, defined as men by your bill. In essence, the state of Kansas would force these women and girls to transition their legal gender against their will. This is not a fringe scenario. I see patients with these conditions routinely in my clinical practice. People across every demographic can have variations in their sex characteristics. Many parents of such children that I counsel struggle significantly with the emotional impact of anti-trans public sentiments like the one this bill fosters. They try to tell their families and loved ones that their child is a whole person, even though they do not fit into the box of boy or girl, and are often met with ridicule, shame, and dangerous misinformation. Many

parents have internalized the idea that sex and gender are limited to two options- man or woman. Many of them struggle immensely with the reality of a new baby who teaches them something new about the world. Some of these conditions can also have serious health consequences and it is critical that parents of children with these conditions keep seeking medical care. For example congenital adrenal hyperplasia is a condition in which people with XX chromosomes (most typical in girls and women) undergo masculinization and may develop genitals and secondary sex characteristics that we more typically associate with men and boys. This process is not harmful to health, but these children can also undergo life threatening salt wasting crises. If left untreated, these crises are fatal. I have personally witnessed families in these situations forgo necessary routine care because anti-trans sentiment has made it so socially difficult for them to care for their child with a sex variation. Anti-trans, medically inaccurate bills like this harm children and their families.

Once again, I thank you all for taking the time to read and consider my testimony. I hope you will put yourself in the shoes of each of the Kansas I have written about above. Please vote no of the passage of HB 2426. Thank you.

Holly Bartlett  
HB 2426 Opponent Written only  
Private citizen  
1/13/2026

Thank you Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee for letting me share my thoughts on HB 2426 with you today. My name is Holly Bartlett and I am a voter in Shawnee County/Topeka. I am writing to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

As a healthcare worker, I have seen how much transgender individuals thrive when allowed to live as the gender with which they identify, and how much mental and emotional damage is done when they are not allowed to be their authentic selves. It makes a bigger difference than you can imagine! As a woman, I do not feel any safer by having rules that discriminate against gender diverse individuals. I have yet to be presented with any evidence that forcing these folks to have gender markers that don't match the way they look and feel helps us as a society in any way. But there is plenty of evidence that this puts gender diverse individuals at risk for discrimination. I can't understand why so much time is spent on this topic when bills such as these yield zero benefit to Kansas families. I will always be in favor of inclusion, dignity, and basic human rights for everyone, which in turn allows people to live up to their full potential and be productive members of our communities.

Thank you for letting me share my thoughts with you, and I encourage you to vote no on the passage of HB 2426. Again, thank you for your time.

Skye Baxter  
HB 2426 Opponent Written Only  
Just-As-You-Are Rainbow Sanctuary, Founder and Director  
1/13/2026

My name is Skye Baxter. I am the founder and director of Just-As-You-Are Rainbow Sanctuary, a community support center serving LGBTQ+ adults in Lyon County. I am writing today to urge you to vote NO on HB 2426.

HB 2426 is not a technical bill. It is a forced-outing bill that uses bureaucratic language to justify harm.

By redefining "gender" in Kansas law to mean "biological sex at birth," and by directing state agencies to invalidate and reissue identity documents, this bill authorizes the state to knowingly place false information on people's driver's licenses and birth certificates. That is not administrative cleanup. It is intentional misrepresentation backed by government power.

At Rainbow Sanctuary, I work with transgender Kansans who are already struggling to stay housed, employed, and safe. Accurate identity documents are often the thin line between stability and crisis. When someone is forced to show ID that contradicts their name and appearance, it exposes them to harassment, denial of service, and violence. This bill would make those situations routine.

The phrase "invalidate and reissue when necessary" is not neutral. It is performative cruelty carried out through paperwork. It creates no public benefit, solves no real problem, and exists solely to make life harder for a small, politically targeted group.

Kansas has urgent needs. Rural hospitals are closing. Families cannot find affordable housing. Young people are leaving the state. Instead of addressing any of this, HB 2426 weaponizes government forms against transgender people. That is not leadership. It is ideological theater that causes real harm.

Thank you for your time and consideration. On behalf of Just-As-You-Are Rainbow Sanctuary and the Kansans we serve, I strongly urge you to vote NO on HB 2426.

Tonya Beach  
HB 2426 Opponent Written Only  
Private Citizen  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2426 with you today. My name is Tonya Beach and I am a voter in Lawrence, KS of Douglas County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

As a parent of a young transgender man, I am deeply concerned about the potential consequences this legislation could have on him and his community.

This bill would require individuals to carry identification that conflicts with their gender identity as expressed in their appearance and lived experience. My son has been living authentically as a male for the past eight years. In our community, he is recognized and accepted as such. Forcing him to carry an ID that lists a different sex could result in emotional trauma and harassment when his identification is checked in public or private settings.

The implications of this legislation extend beyond emotional harm. It has the potential to complicate essential aspects of his life, such as traveling, applying for jobs, securing housing, and accessing medical services and insurance claims. The risk of being misidentified could expose him to unnecessary discrimination and danger.

Moreover, we invested significant time, effort, and financial resources to have my son's identity documents legally updated to reflect his true identity. This bill undermines that process, reverting to outdated regulations and disregarding the progress we've worked towards. There appears to be no substantive justification for introducing this bill; rather, it seems to perpetuate oppression and intimidation against a marginalized community that already faces considerable challenges.

In addition to my personal concerns, studies have shown that affirming a person's gender identity significantly decreases their likelihood of experiencing mental health issues, discrimination, and violence.

I urge you to consider the harmful ramifications of this legislation on individuals like my son. Supporting the rights and dignity of transgender people is crucial for fostering a safe and inclusive society.

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 HB 2426. Thank you.

Trace Beard  
HB 2426 Opponent Written only  
Private citizen  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2426 with you today. My name is Trace Beard and I am a voter in Garden City. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426

HB 2426 is a disgrace to what the great state of Kansas represents. I love many a person who are transgender. They don't have a malicious motive they just want to be their true self. I should never have had to comfort a ten year because a grown adult was belittling them about their gender identity. That child was more confident in their true self than anyone else I know. I will never forget them looking at me and saying I was the only adult other than their mother who saw them for who they truly are. They were ten and ready to kill themselves due to adults treating them like trash and ignoring who they truly felt. I hope no one ever has to comfort a ten year old child who wants to kill themselves.

I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of HB 2426. Thank you.

Angela Beck  
HB 2426 Opponent Written only  
Private Citizen  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2426 with you today. My name is Angela Beck and I am a voter in Leavenworth, KS. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

I am the mother of a young adult who identifies as part of the trans/nonbinary community. I have grave concerns for the mental health of our trans/nonbinary community if they are denied the right to live their full and complete lives. According to a 2023 study by the NIH, "The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) included a pilot item assessing transgender identity in 2017 and found that 44% of transgender students reported seriously considering attempting suicide and 34% reported a suicide attempt. This compares with 16% of cisgender youth who seriously considered attempting suicide and 7% who reported a suicide attempt. This higher level of suicide risk among TGNB (transgender nonbinary) youth is primarily due to greater exposure to stressors based on their gender identity."

There is no law that protects transgender Kansans from discrimination and this bill increases that risk. This policy is disingenuous and dangerous to many Kansans, including members of the LGBTQ+ community. While this bill purports to protect women it, in fact, seriously endangers the lives of transgender Kansans by prohibiting individuals from accessing restrooms, domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, and other essential spaces and services.

From the bottom of this mama's heart I am begging you to please take this into consideration. Please take the time to talk to trans and nonbinary individuals and get to know them. They are people just like you with likes and dislikes and dreams of their futures. All they want to do is just live their authentic lives. Please allow them to do this in Kansas versus leaving the state (many with their families, taking valuable contributors to our state with them.)

Again, I thank you for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill and I encourage you to vote no on the passage of HB 2426. Thank you.

Kelley Begley McCall  
HB 2426 Opponent Written Only  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you for taking the time to read my testimony on HB 2426. My name is Kelley Begley McCall and I am a voter in Sedgwick County. I am both a mother to a 22-year-old transgender son and an educator in Kansas, and I am writing today to ask the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

HB 2426 would create situations where transgender Kansans are forced to prove or defend their existence in everyday settings. Something as ordinary as showing an ID for a job interview, opening a bank account, or accessing housing becomes risky when legal documents are required to contradict who a person actually is. That kind of forced outing increases the chances of harassment, discrimination, and even violence. Laws should make public life easier and safer, not more dangerous.

As a mother, I have watched my son navigate situations where safety isn't guaranteed. I have seen him think through whether using a restroom, showing his ID, or accessing basic services will put him at risk. These are calculations that most people never have to make. HB 2426 would make that burden heavier, not lighter.

As an educator in Kansas, I have spent years helping young people build confidence, belonging, and hope for their future. I have seen firsthand how critical those things are for healthy development and for becoming a contributing adult. When the state passes laws that tell a group of young people that they are unwelcome or suspect, it undermines that development. It discourages participation in school, in work, and in community life. It isolates students who are already more likely to face discrimination and harm.

Kansas currently has no statewide nondiscrimination protections for transgender people. Instead of addressing that, HB 2426 increases the barriers transgender Kansans face and opens the door to excluding them from spaces like bathrooms, domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, and other critical services. While this bill claims to protect women, in practice it makes transgender Kansans less safe and less able to access care, safety, or dignity.

Passing HB 2426 would not solve a public safety problem—it would create one. It would make it harder for transgender Kansans to work, learn, seek help when they need it, and fully participate in their own communities. That is not in line with who we are or who we want to be as a state.

Thank you again for hearing from parents and educators like me. I ask you to vote NO on HB 2426 because this bill would harm people who are simply trying to live their lives in the state they call home.

Fred Bellemere  
HB 2426 Opponent Written Only  
Private Citizen  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts on HB 2426. My name is Fred Bellemere and I am a Kansas resident. I am writing today to encourage you to vote no on HB 2426.

I believe HB 2426 is completely unnecessary and a waste of our tax dollars. I believe this bill is trying to solve a problem that does not exist. Transgender people are not running around our state committing crimes or even causing problems that could warrant this type of action. Given this information what rational could their be for forcing the changes described in this bill. The State of Kansas should be using tax dollars to educate our children. We do not need to be paying state employees to change documents, track down and serve indeividuals with those documents.

Thank you again for taking the time to read my thoughts on HB 2426. I would encourage you to vote no on HB 2426. Use our tax dollars wisely.

Charissa Bertels  
HB 2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
Private Citizen  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts on HB 2426 with you today. My name is Charissa Bertels and I am a voter in Riley County/Manhattan, KS. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

I believe this bill is an attempt to discriminate against a small number of Kansans and has already been knocked down by the Kansas judicial system as recently as June 2025. The appeals court ruling noted that the Kansas Supreme Court has recognized a distinction between "sex" and "gender" since at least 2002 and that the ability to identify as one wishes on their identification causes no harm. Putting inaccurate definitions relating to gender into our law, however, will cause harm to all Kansans and will allow for discrimination against any non-conforming resident (which could also include any cisgender woman who doesn't look "feminine" enough).

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard on this issue and I encourage you all to vote no on the passage of HB 2426. There are many real issues facing Kansans that need your attention and this is not one of them. Thank you.

Kristen Blackton  
HB 2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
Private Citizen  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee,  
I appreciate your service in the legislature and your time as you read my testimony today. My name is Kristen Blackton, and I live in Johnson County. I am writing in opposition to HB 2426 and am encouraging members of the committee to vote no on this bill.

I oppose this bill for many reasons, including that Kansas's current Attorney General recently lost a court case over this very issue, but perhaps the most salient is that I believe transgender Kansans should be able to live their lives without fear of retribution and discrimination from the state. If this bill passes, it further entrenches discrimination against LGBTQ people into Kansas law. I am firmly against that.

I hope that you will listen to the voices of transgender Kansans and take into consideration every American's right to a life of freedom and the pursuit of happiness. I encourage all of you to vote no on the passage of HB 2425. Thank you for your time.

Jenifer Boles  
HB 2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2426 with you today. My name is Jenifer Boles and I am a voter in Lenexa and Johnson County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

This bill is discriminatory and will harm a marginalized group. Our transgender neighbors already face higher levels of discrimination and harassment. This bill will only render them less safe and more vulnerable to discrimination and harassment. This bill will cause more harm, making Kansans feel stigmatized.

All citizens deserve to feel safe and valued in Kansas. This bill doesn't remedy an issue, but only serves to legislate discrimination. It creates more issues and is likely to have a devastating impact on transgender Kansans.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my thoughts on this bill, and I urge you all to vote no of the passage of HB 2426. Thank you.

Jerry Bonner  
HB 2426 Opponent Written only  
Private Citizen  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Committee Members, thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts on HB 2426 you you. My name is Jerry Bonner and I am a voter in Sedgwick County. I am writing to encourage you to vote NO on HB 2426.

HB 2426 will harm those individuals who are trans, intersex, and/or gender fluid by enacting law that inaccurately defines gender that will be used to broadly discriminate and create unsafe environments for them.

Showing an ID shouldn't be a worrisome nor dangerous act. Transgender people face pervasive discrimination and hate-based violence just for being themselves. We all need legal documents to get a job, open a bank account, go to school, as well as a myriad of other things. Laws that put transgender people at more risk of discrimination and hate-based violence for engaging in everyday actions that require showing their ID means that transgender Kansans could miss out on these important aspects of life to protect their safety.

There is no law that protects transgender Kansans from discrimination and this bill increases that risk. This policy is disingenuous and dangerous to many Kansans, including members of the LGBTQ+ community. While this bill alleges it will protect women it, it will, in fact, seriously endanger the lives of transgender Kansans by prohibiting them from accessing restrooms, domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, and other essential spaces and services.

Kansans who identify as LGBTQ+ do not negatively affect others in any way, yet this bill targets and negatively impacts them. Do no harm and oppose this bill.

I do not identify as LGBTQ+, but I do believe that every single Kansan should be treated equally. I appreciate you listening to my views as a voter in Kansas.

Mikela Bonner  
HB 2426 Opponent Written Only  
Private Citizen  
1/13/2026

To Chair Humphries and members of this committee, I appreciate that opportunity to voice my thoughts on HB 2426. My name is Mikela Bonner, and I am a voter from Wichita. I am writing to encourage you to vote NO on HB 2426.

The redefining of gender to biological sex represents a deep misunderstanding of personal identity and tends to be raised politically these days as a distraction from issues that truly matter to voters. Bills such as HB 2426 serve to increase dramatically the distress experienced by gender-diverse individuals without serving any purpose towards the creation of a safer, more inclusive, more peaceful society. This distress can even lead to such horrific outcomes as suicide, from people of many ages. I still recall vividly from my time as an ER nurse the screaming of parents when we had to tell them their child was dead from a gunshot wound to the head. That sound does not leave you.

Ever.

Please do not be complicit in the spreading of misinformation and creation of a hostile environment in Kansas for gender-diverse individuals.

Thank you for giving me a brief time to give thoughts on this matter. Please vote NO on HB 2426. Thank you.

ADAM BOWERS  
HB 2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2426 with you today. My name is Adam Bowers and I am a voter in Sedgwick County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

I oppose this redundant bill and urge your committee to vote against it. Blocking this bill means that you respect the livelihoods of your neighbors. Allowing them to live their authentic lives. Passing this bill forces inaccuracies and dangers on our marginalized communities. The harm that the passing of this bill would cause is all for what? It's been struck down already but the Kansas Supreme Court. Whose pride are we coddling? We are taught that local and state government officials are in their positions to support their community. Opposing this bill does that.

Thank you for listening. I encourage you all to vote no on the passage of HB 2426. You're voting no? Are your colleagues? How will you encourage them to do the same? Thank you.

Kathryn Bowman  
HB 2426 Opponent Written only  
Private citizen  
1/13/2026

My name is Kathryn Bowman, writing from KCK

This bill will negatively impact active members of our community in a time when minorities are already being attacked.

Once again, thank you for hearing the story and thoughts on the bill, and I encourage you to vote no for HB 2426.

Heath Bradley  
HB 2426 Opponent Written only  
Private citizen  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphrey and Member of the Committee, thank you for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2426 with you today. My name is Heath Bradley and I am a voter in Cherokee County. I'm writing today to encourage this committee to vote no on HB 2426.

For years, I lived in shame of who I was. It took me a long time to have the courage to live authentically. This proposition to keep people like me from being able to have their identification com being represented as who we are is an imposition on our back human rights to our lives, our liberties and our pursuit of happiness. The only people who should be concerned over our genitals are our partners and our doctors. What genitals we have is nobody's business and, frankly, the obsession with genitals is weird. Stop trying to oppress us further and let us live our lives on happiness.

Once again, thank you for hearing my stance. Please vote no on the passage of HB2426 and let ALL Kansas live free and equally. Focus on things that will actually keep us safe.

Brandon  
HB 2426 Opponent Written only  
Private citizen  
1/13/2026

My name is Brandon and I am a voter in Sedgwick county/Wichita. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on HB 2426.

Redefining “gender” as only “biological sex” may seem like a technical change, but it has very human consequences. It tells some Kansans that their lived reality doesn’t count in the eyes of their own government. That kind of message doesn’t make our state stronger—it makes people feel unsafe and unwelcome.

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 HB 2426. Thank you.

Kaitlynd Brasher  
HB 2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
1/13/2026

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the members of this committee on HB 2426. My name is Kaitlynd Brasher, I am a voter in Sedgwick County, Wichita. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

The medical treatment, including all information regarding a persons, sex, gender, medical history, hormone treatment/prescription/intervention or otherwise PRIVATE information is strictly between the business of each citizen and their medical provider. The state has absolutely no authority to begin scrutinizing its citizens based on appearances, and to retroactively disband all of the vital trans-inclusive care or medical decisions reflected on their documentation is not only shameful and unlawful, but is life threatening. No citizen should ever feel obliged to explain their identity to a "designated official" and attempting to enforce this with the proposed bill is a futile attempt at dismantling all the important and necessary inclusivity that our community, the PEOPLE of this state, has worked so hard for. As a people it is necessary to condemn these bills that fall in the shadow of fascist gender-policing. As a woman, it is necessary to enforce that all trans women are my sisters, and as a person it is necessary to enforce that all trans individuals are my community, and by extension my family. Trans men and women, intersex individuals, these are people looking for the autonomy and right that THIS government has promised them since birth. The same dignity and respect that you afford to those you deem as the "correct" group. If you are truly looking for the individuals. who wish to cause harm to everyday working class Americans, the people breaking down trust and longstanding support with its populous, the people HURTING the constituents that even GRANTED them to be the mouthpieces for us as a collective, then I HIGHLY suggest you look to the top of this administration.

Once again, I thank you for being present, as it is the bare minimum your jobs require, to rightfully LISTEN to the people, and I encourage you all the vote NO of the passage of HB 2426. Thank you.

Emily Brosz  
HB 2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, despite the short notice I do appreciate the opportunity to discuss HB 2426 with you today. My name is Emily Brosz and I am a voter in Wichita Kansas now that I am in my late twenties, but the first 19 years of my life I grew up in Andover Kansas (your district Humphrey) I went to Andover Central high school. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

This bill will harm many Kansans like myself whose gender identity does not align with our sex assigned at birth. I like many of our trans Kansas who live, work, and worship in this state. This bill does not align with scientific consensus or with scripture. God tells us explicitly to accept those outside of a strict gender binary in Mathew 19:12 "for there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let anyone accept this who can" NRSV

Please reflect on whether the passage of this bill is in the best interest of Kansans, I encourage everyone in this committee to vote No on HB 2426, thank you.

Nicole Brown  
HB2426 OPPONET WRITTEN ONLY  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2426 with you today. My name is Nicole and I am a voter in Sedgwick County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426

HB 2426 only harms, and doesn't help. It restricts people's right to express themselves and will cause unnecessary stress both on the individual's affected and our already overburdened division of motor vehicles and registrar offices with the forced correction and reissuing of birth certificates and driver's licenses.

Please consider the voices speaking to you about this bill, and look beyond any prejudices that may be present in this decision (whether yours, a friend's, or someone else's). This bill takes away rights, creates waste in our wonderful State's budget, and ultimately, does not reflect the true views and values of the constituents who you represent. A better Kansas for all should be what we fight for.

Once again, thank you for hearing my request and I implore you to vote NO on the passage of HB 2426. Please consider the full impact of this bill, however simple it may seem. Thank you.

Amy Carter  
HB 2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
Private Citizen  
1/13/2026

Members of the Committee, thank you for providing the opportunity to share my thoughts on HB 2426 with you today. My name is Amy Carter and I am a voter in Johnson County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

This policy is misleading and puts many Kansans at risk, including LGBTQ+ residents. Although it claims to protect women, it instead endangers transgender Kansans by denying them access to restrooms, domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, and other vital spaces and services.

This bill does nothing to protect women. If legislators truly want to protect women, you could strengthen protections against domestic and sexual violence, and invest in safety, healthcare, economic security, and bodily autonomy rather than targeting vulnerable groups and restricting access to essential services.

Once again, thank you all for hearing my thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no on the passage of HB 2426. Thank you.

Ruben Castillo  
HB 2426 Opponent Written only  
Private citizen  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2426 with you today. My name is Ruben Castillo and I am a voter in Shawnee, Johnson County, Kansas. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426

This bill goes against Kansas people's right to privacy and their right to conduct themselves with liberty and freedom. I am a strong believer in Don't tread on me, as many others are, that includes not jeopardizing another humans ability to live their life as they see fit. Let's focus on the real issues that will help Kansas people, not some made up fictional rehtoric being shared by snowflakes. Kansas is strong with strong people, let's not back down from being Americans and let's uphold the values our founding fathers did.

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 HB 2426. Thank you.

Chloe Chaffin  
HB 2426 Opponent Written Only  
Private Citizen  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit comment on this bill. My name is Chloe Chaffin and I am a lifelong Kansan and current resident of Lawrence. I strongly ask that you vote no on HB 2426.

Every bill is an opportunity cost and there are so many more pressing issues facing Kansans: cost of living, access to healthcare, funding our schools, protecting our water and land, and so much more. Instead of addressing those concerns, the legislature is once again debating pedantic policies of exclusion. There is not data that this will make us safer, but it does continue to send the message to marginalized communities that they are somehow wrong or disgraceful and that erasing them from public life is the top priority of the legislature that is meant to serve them. Diversity makes us better. Putting down someone else makes you weak, not strong. Live your own life and let others live theirs. This is unwarranted, invasive, and shows how small and fearful this committee really is.

I once again urge you to vote no on HB 2426, to stop attacking trans Kansans, and focus on real issues that affect every Kansan on a daily basis over these distracting culture wars.

Liz Chapa  
Liz Chapa Opponent Written only  
Private Citizen  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2426 with you today. My name is Liz Chapa and I am a voter in Linwood, KS of Leavenworth County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426"

It is scary being a non binary person in this world, people judge and react based on looks, and I don't want my nonbinary friends and family to fear being discriminated against by neighbors and people in power because of inaccurate labeling. This can cause higher rates of suicidal ideation and other negative outcomes. Let people be who they are. Please block the passage of HC 2426 to protect our non binary friends and family from unlawful discrimination.

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 HB 2426. Thank you.

Jadie Chauncey  
HB242 Opponent Written only  
Private Citizen  
1/13/2026

Thank you committee members for allowing me to share with you my thoughts on HB 2426. My name is Jadie Chauncey and I am a voter in Johnson County. I am writing today to ask you to vote no on HB 2426.

HB 2426 attempts to legislate a single definition of gender for all Kansans, regardless of lived experience, medical guidance, or personal autonomy. This is an inappropriate use of state power. Kansans value limited government and personal freedom, and this bill undermines both.

If men and women are treated equally under the law as they are required to be the genitals of others should not be anyone's concern. Additionally this does not even begin to address the concerns intersex Kansas, who were born with sex characteristics of both sexes will be impacted.

Science shows that gender and sex are not the same, so it is troubling that this bill ignores decades of research. Major medical organizations, including the American Medical Association and the American Psychological Association, recognize gender identity as a deeply rooted aspect of human development.

Policies that invalidate a person's identity documents contradict best practices in healthcare, mental health, social services, education, and law enforcement. Legislation should support, not undermine, evidence-based professional standards.

Supporters may claim the bill is necessary for clarity or safety, but there is no evidence that gender-affirming documents create public safety issues. In fact, mismatched documents make identity verification less reliable, increase confusion for law enforcement, and create unnecessary conflict in routine interactions. Public safety is strengthened when documents accurately reflect the person presenting them.

Forcing transgender people to carry documents that do not match their identity increases the likelihood of harassment, discrimination, denial of services, and safety risks during everyday situations such as traffic stops, job applications, or housing processes. I cannot for the life of me figure out why this legislature is so obsessed with making life harder for the small population that is trans Kansans.

Lastly, HB 2426 would create conflicting identity documents for many Kansans, barriers to interstate travel and employment verification, and obstacles to federal compliance. It also increases the risk of litigation due to constitutional and administrative conflicts. Kansas should not pass legislation that exposes the state to costly legal challenges and creates confusion for residents.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no on the passage of HB 2426. Thank you.

H Clauer  
HB 2426 Opponent Written only  
Private citizen  
1/13/2026

Hello, my name is Haidee and I am a resident of KC and first responder in Wyandotte County.

I urge you to block HB2426. As a member of the queer community, I see firsthand how this bill will be a detriment to the lives and freedoms of your constituents in KS. This bigoted bill ignores both science and the tangible, flourishing faces of our thriving diverse communities in KS. As an EMT, I need to be able to greet people with full consideration of their identities and lived experiences in order to provide adequate care. This bill limits KS language to exclude people's very real identities. How can medical providers give effective care when we are limited by regressive, limited, narrow-minded expressions around our patients' genders? Lastly, as a sibling and friend to many genderqueer people in our community, I am horrified by this bill. It is both an insult and a threat that will be weaponized to exclude community members from resources, deny freedoms, and cut down the existence of our diverse loved ones.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge you to vote no.

Cheralyn Cofer  
HB 2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
PFLAG, Board Member  
1/13/2026

Thank you in advance for listening to my testimony related to HB 2426. My name is Cheralyn Cofer and I am a voter in Johnson County, Overland Park. I am writing to ask that you vote NO on HB 2426, to show that you vote Yes to upholding the human dignity and autonomy that every citizen deserves.

As a longtime member of PFLAG , an organization of allies among the LGBTQ+ community, I have spent many hours listening to people's diverse experiences, struggles, and joys. Despite our diversity, we share a common goal of reaching our own potential, accepting and flourishing in our own authenticity.

I object to this bill because it deprives an entire community of people from rights that we all deserve as citizens, and if we deny them, then we must likewise deny ourselves, else suffer hypocrisy.

I urge you to vote NO to HB 2426, and in doing so, vote yes to mutual respect, integrity, and equality. Thank you.

Autumn Colbeth  
HB 2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
1/13/2026

My name is Autumn Colbeth and I am a concerned Lawrence resident. Thank you for giving us the time to share our thoughts on HB2426. I am testifying on why changing the definition of "gender to mean biological sex at birth for purposes of statutory construction" will be detrimental to Kansans statewide. And it is frustrating to see those who should be representing the Kansan people continue to try again and again to harm them.

For starters, we have different words for gender and sex for a reason. As a biologist, I can tell you that our assigned sex at birth does not denote our actual life experiences. Be that how we develop biologically, how we express ourselves psychically, and how we feel mentally. And the assigned sex itself can never capture how we look on a chromosomal level, as we only look to what we can see physically, so can we even say that our biological sex is truly the same as our assigned sex anyways? Will you next require that we check every baby born to the cellular level to truly determine their sex? Or will you rely on the flawed assignment from doctors because its morose about controlling others based off of perceived traits?

Even if we set aside the mental pain and torment that this will cause to our LGBTQIA+ Kansans, which we shouldn't have to do, yet it is clear that that is not what matters here to some, this bill will affect non queer Kansans too. This will continue to clog the DMV and other state offices with unnecessary issuing of important documents.

Why does Rep. Humphries feel that this issue is of the utmost importance that it needs to be rushed through with little time for Kansans to respond? Please choose not to change the definition of gender and do not force many Kansans to receive new, inaccurate, licenses and birth documents. Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated.

## **Written Opponent Testimony of HB2426**

For the House Committee on Judiciary

January 13, 2026

Liz Collins

Private Citizen

Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on HB2426 with you today. My name is Liz Collins (they/them/theirs), and I am a voter in Lawrence, Kansas. I am writing to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB2426.

I am a lifelong Kansan and a recent graduate of the University of Kansas, and I identify as a non-binary individual. It wasn't until I was in college that I realized and came to terms with the fact that I am non-binary, and over the years I have found ways to present myself to the world that feels more true to who I am. However, one place where I cannot do that is on my legal identification. I have come to accept that the state of Kansas does not allow X markers on a driver's license, but I am appalled by the lengths this bill goes to to misgender trans Kansans. Additionally, I am outraged by Representative Humphries' violation of the legislative rules by turning this informational discussion into a hearing without proper notification. This goes against the rules put into place for due process for bills, and is an undemocratic attempt to limit our voices.

First and foremost, this bill seeks to define "gender" as one's biological sex at birth. However, the World Health Organization defines and differentiates "sex" and "gender" as such:

"Gender interacts with but is different from sex, which refers to the different biological and physiological characteristics of females, males and intersex persons, such as chromosomes, hormones and reproductive organs. Gender and sex are related to but different from gender identity. Gender identity refers to a person's deeply felt, internal and individual experience of gender, which may or may not correspond to the person's physiology or designated sex at birth."

Changing the State's definition of "gender" to be the same definition as that of biological "sex" is a violation of our freedoms as Americans. We deserve the right to exist as our true selves and not feel the need to conform to heteronormative standards of gender.

This proposed bill will not only prohibit changing one's gender on their driver's license, but it will also invalidate and reissue existing driver's licenses and birth certificates with an individual's preferred gender. This bill is both a violation of freedom of speech and the right to privacy, and it is a serious

waste of taxpayer dollars. Myself and other citizens would much rather see our taxpayer dollars go to funding school lunches or better public infrastructure rather than paying to hunt down every transgender person in the state and reverse their legal documents.

Furthermore, I believe that passage of this bill would open the doors for future discrimination against transgender Kansans. If changing one's gender marker is not allowed, next it will be gender affirming care, which hundreds of both cisgender and transgender individuals rely on. Additionally, if an individual is not allowed to change their gender marker to the one that matches their appearance and how they present themselves, this will cause confusion for anyone who needs to check their ID and gender dysphoria for the trans individual.

This bill is an attack on the transgender citizens of the state of Kansas. Kansan politicians do not need to spend their time on a predatory bill that impacts a small minority of individuals. If signed into law, HB2426 would lead to unnecessary legal battles because it inherently infringes on our rights. Additionally, the passage of this bill would make me (and probably other) queer individuals consider moving out of the state, which would result in losing tax dollars. There are more important issues for the state to focus on during this legislative session. Thank you for reading my testimony, and I implore you to vote NO on HB2426.

ARIONA COOK  
HB 2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
1/12/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my concerns on HB 2426 with you today. My name is Ariona Cook and I am a constituent in Marysville, located in Marshall County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

When I was 17, I was diagnosed with Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome and underwent surgical procedures after months of frustrating doctor visits, unclear exams, and lackluster treatment plans. During this time, I spoke with several doctors about my PCOS diagnosis and abnormalities that affected my hair growth and reproductive health, stemming from a genetic anomaly I'd unknowingly had. I felt isolated and scared; unsure of what the next steps would be on this health journey and the implications it had on my sex.

I sit here, three years later, with many of the same uncertainties I had in my last year of high school. For the rest of my life, I will seek and receive treatment for my condition and continue to struggle with potential infertility and abnormal hormonal levels. This is because the idea, and codification, of sex/gender as something as simple as a binary is scientifically incorrect. Like most things in nature, gender and sex operate on a maddening spectrum. There is no one criteria—not even one enshrined in statute—that can truly capture what "makes a woman" and what "makes a man."

This bill dismisses the social construction of gender (despite the continuous implications of this construction on women in the workforce and leadership today—which I face every day) and defines sex as "the biological indication of male and female in the context of reproductive potential or capacity, including sex chromosomes, naturally occurring sex hormones, gonads and nonambiguous internal and external genitalia present at birth." By adopting this definition, not only is the Kansas legislature adopting a definition that excludes many individuals (such as myself) who were born with genetic anomalies that affect our reproductive "potential or capacity," but it's unnecessarily targeting and harming transgender and nonconforming individuals. By forcing the reversal of gender markers on state issued drivers licenses and birth certificates, the state is putting thousands of people in danger of discrimination due to their external appearance not matching a letter etched on their birth certificate.

I can't help but ask myself why, on the second day of the 2026 legislative session, the House Judiciary Committee would spend time on this bill. I have yet to hear about any tangible and pervasive consequences of people changing their gender markers. During a time when thousands of Kansas families are struggling to put food on the table, purchase necessities for their children, and access medical care, why is the forefront debate for Kansas policy centered on definitions of gender and the markers of identification documents?

As a Kansan, public policy undergraduate, and aspiring public servant, I hope that each of you will choose people over politics, care over animosity, and compassion over division. It is up to you to decide Kansas' legacy, and I only hope you decide to prioritize the wide variety of issues that are facing Kansans and not trivial political games that only continue to put your colleagues and fellow citizens in harm's way.

Once again, thank you for your time and consideration on this matter, and I encourage you all to vote no on the passage of HB 2426.

RE: Opposition to HB 2426 — Defining “gender” as biological sex at birth

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2426. I respectfully oppose this bill and urge the Committee to reject it for the following reasons:

**1. It Overrides Personal Identity with Narrow Legal Definitions**

HB 2426 seeks to impose a single, statutory definition of “gender” limited to biological sex at birth. This fails to account for the lived experiences and identities of transgender, non-binary, and gender-diverse Kansans. Legal definitions that ignore established medical and social understanding further marginalize vulnerable groups and do not reflect the complexity of human identity.

**2. It Creates Practical and Legal Confusion**

By mandating overturning and reissuing official documents (driver’s licenses and birth certificates) based solely on a rigid definition, the bill could:

Force changes to personal records against the will or best interests of individuals.

Expose the state to legal challenges based on fundamental rights to privacy, dignity, and equal protection under the law.

**3. Reissuing Documents:** The bill mandates that the Division of Motor Vehicles and the Office of Vital Statistics invalidate and reissue driver’s licenses and birth certificates to align with the new definition of gender. This can create logistical challenges and confusion. Implementing these changes may require additional state resources and funding, which could strain budgets and lead to delays in processing documents.

**4. It Undermines Trust**

This bill sends a message to LGBTQ+ Kansans — especially youth — that their identities are subject to legislative control rather than recognized as legitimate. This could negatively affect their mental health, sense of belonging, and trust in state institutions.

**5. It Might Conflict with Current Law and Federal Standards**

Defining “gender” in statute in a narrow way risks conflicting with existing protections under federal law and guidance that recognize gender identity for purposes of anti-discrimination enforcement and access to services.

**Conclusion**

HB 2426 does not genuinely improve state services or legal clarity. Instead, it creates unnecessary harm, fuels discrimination, and threatens the dignity of Kansans whose lives are already complicated by legislative overreach. I respectfully urge the Committee to oppose this bill and instead seek policies that protect all Kansans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Emilie Cravens

First of all I would like to thank the committee for taking the time out of their day to have this discussion and to listen to what people have to say about this issue. My name is Reagan Crockett, and I oppose the HB2426 Bill.

Most of my life I've grown up as a 'tomboy', taking a stronger interest in more masculine topics than what the rest of the girls in my grade liked. I've always held that suffocating weight of being different over my shoulders until I learned about the LGBTQ+ community, and a specific label in that community reached out to me more than the rest of them did. Gender-fluidity. This isn't all that I am, and I've understood and accepted that some people are always going to see me as a woman, and I've come to accept it. I'm the same person I've always been, I am still pursuing a degree in environmental science, I am still my parents' child, and I still want to help people. There is still much more to me as a person, but if that major part of my identity is taken away from me because of this bill I cannot carry myself with the same confidence I have painstakingly built up over the past years. If I have to hide one part of myself, who knows what else I will have to hide next?

I would like to point out that in this bill's writing, the first sentence wants to redefine gender as "biological sex at birth". This is just re-enstating the definition of sex with absolutely no alterations to that definition. Though both are similar, the difference between the two relies on culture. What you are asking is separating boys by the fact that they have an XY chromosome, girls by the fact that they have two X chromosomes, and intersex people fall under the category of any other possible combination. Though this is used in theory, it's much more complicated when applied to the real world. If you ask any person what makes a man a man, the answer may be defined by what is in his pants, but there are expectations on what he should dress like, act and behave like. Men who want to identify as men, but also dress more feminine are endlessly mocked in almost any stage of their lives, being called a girl as an insult. Though it may be meant as a joke, this goes to show that society still enforces gender roles that do not apply to sex. If it did, anything that a biological man did would be considered 'manly', so there is still a need to separate the terms sex and gender.

People who transition do not do it for attention or to fit into a group that will accept them, they do it to affirm a major part of their lives. If a man wanted to go into a girls bathroom to harass and assault, he would not spend thousands of dollars on hormone therapy and gender affirming surgery, he would not bare the pain of being looked down on by his neighbors and co-workers just because he was different. If we want to make communities lives happier and safer, we need to focus on physical efforts that take power out of corrupt hands rather than changing a definition.

Dear Chair Humphries and the Members of the Committee, I want to express my gratitude to be able to share my thoughts on HB 2426 with you all today. My name is Olivia Katherine Crouch and I am a voter in Shawnee, Kansas, Johnson County. I am writing today to implore the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

The reason why I am desperately urging the committee to vote against HB 2426 is because it will DIRECTLY harm my family, the state of Kansas, and myself in untold multitudes of ways. Not only will HB 2426 enshrine inaccurate definitions of gender and sex that will harm all Kansans going forward it also states that it will retroactively reverse Transgender peoples birth certificates, passports, and gender markers, all of which have already been approved by the state of Kansas and have been vigorously looked over and screened to ensure no "fraud" is taking place. Meaning HB 2426's justification for being proposed is not prima facie. Additionally, the retroactive reversal of already approved and changed licenses and certificates is nothing more than an act of cruelty that will make presenting an ID by an intersex, transgender, or gender diverse individual a potentially dangerous act that will easily enable discrimination, hate crimes, and irreversible mental damage to be perpetrated against all Kansans. Transgender Kansans are already some of the most disenfranchised and least protected individuals in the state as we lack any state laws that protect us from discrimination. Therefore passing HB 2426 will drastically push Kansas into being an unsafe state for the LGBTQ+ community and for Transgender Kansans to live in. That being even a potential possibility fills me with so much despair. As I am a lifelong Kansan, I happen to also be a Transgender Woman. My loyalty and love for the state of Kansas cannot be expressed deeply enough in words. Yet, HB 2426 will deprive me of the liberties of being a Kansan in favor of targeting me for my circumstantial identity as a Trans Woman. I did not ask to be born this way. I have tirelessly fought to be recognized as a Woman

and have been transitioning since I was 15 years old, I am now 24 engaged, employed, and a first time home buyer in the state of Kansas. I graduated from Gardner Edgerton High School as a WOMAN as Olivia Katherine Crouch. I graduated from the University of Kansas as a WOMAN as Olivia Katherine Crouch. I served my communities in Lawrence, Topeka, Olathe, Gardner, and Shawnee, as a shelter and food bank volunteer as a WOMAN as Olivia Katherine Crouch. I worked for the Kansas City Pioneers and Chiefs as a WOMAN and as Olivia Katherine Crouch. I am a WOMAN and I am Olivia Katherine Crouch, just because I am also transgender should not diminish my rights to not be harassed, to be able to engage in civil society, to get married to my cisgender male fiancé who serves the Kansas Department of Transportation, and to have my ID reflect myself. All of my family, my friends, my fiancé, coworkers, and random strangers I encounter see me as a woman. If HB 2426 were to pass the state of Kansas would be saying to my Mother and Father that I am NOT their daughter, to my Fiancé that I am NOT his future wife, and to every Kansan that the state of Kansas will not defend those with the smallest voices.

Once again, I would like to thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill. I implore you all to vote NO of the passage of HB 2426. Thank you honorable Members of the Committee and Chair.

Carmen Cruit  
HB 2426 Opponent Written Only  
Private Citizen  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts on HB 2426 with you today. My name is Carmen Cruit and I am a voter in Lyon County/Emporia. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

I oppose this bill because I support and believe that transgender people are who they say they are. I believe gender is an expression of one's soul. When I was 17 and cross dressed for the first time, and I realized something queer was going on with myself. I have been identifying as trans masculine with he/they pronouns. Every time I see "F" to identify my gender I know that isn't who I really am. Transgender people deserve to have accurate gender markings on their licenses and personal documentation.

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 HB 2426. Thank you.

Amanda D. Cundy  
HB 2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony today. My name is Amanda Cundy, and I am a Kansas parent and voter in Maize (Sedgwick County). I am writing in strong opposition to HB 2426 and respectfully urge you to vote no.

HB 2426 goes far beyond a paperwork change. It would write into law an inaccurate and harmful definition of "sex" and "gender," and it would invalidate and require reissuance of existing driver's licenses and invalidate and require correction of birth certificates that do not match the bill's definition, retroactively for documents issued before July 1, 2026.

I want to be clear about what that means in real life. My family includes a minor transgender daughter. She was able to change the gender marker on her driver's license to "F." That change has made her feel safer. It means she doesn't have to fear harassment, judgment, or confrontation when she's required to show her ID at school events, at appointments, when traveling, or in everyday situations where a mismatch can invite hostility. When her documents reflect who she is and how she looks, she can move through the world with a little less fear. HB 2426 would take that away.

As a parent, I want what most parents want: for my child to be safe, to do the best she can in school, to grow into a productive member of society, and to live a life where she is loved and able to thrive. Bills like HB 2426 do the opposite. They send a message that my daughter is "less than," that she is not welcome, and that the government is willing to use law to erase her. They make it clear that people who are different are not being considered with compassion or fairness. And they undermine the promise our country makes about freedom and dignity, because freedom isn't real if your government forces you to carry documents that expose you to risk simply for existing.

This isn't theoretical for my family. Within the last year, I had to take my daughter to Comcare Crisis for threats of suicide. Not because she has a mental illness and hates herself for being transgender, but because she has the courage to be her authentic self in a world that constantly seeks to erase her. Policies that target transgender people add pressure, fear, and isolation. When the state tells a child, through law, that who they are is not valid, it can be devastating.

HB 2426 would also create broader harms beyond my family. When people are forced to present IDs that don't match their appearance or identity, it increases the likelihood of being denied services, singled out, or put in danger. Accurate identification helps people work, learn, access healthcare, travel, and simply participate in community life. Kansas already lacks explicit statewide protections from discrimination for transgender Kansans; this bill would increase the risk and amplify vulnerability.

Finally, I am deeply concerned that HB 2426 would be used to justify exclusion from essential spaces and services such as restrooms, shelters, and crisis supports, under the claim of "protecting women." In practice, these policies endanger transgender Kansans, including transgender youth, and create unsafe environments for trans, intersex, and gender-diverse people.

Showing your ID should not be a dangerous act. Kansas should not be in the business of forcing people into situations that increase harassment and violence risk.

Thank you again, Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, for your time and consideration. For the safety of my daughter, for the dignity of Kansas families, and for the well-being of transgender, intersex, and gender-diverse Kansans across our state, I respectfully urge you to vote NO on HB 2426.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amanda D. Cundy  
Maize, KS  
cundy.mandy@gmail.com

Meurig Cundy  
HB 2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
Private Citizen  
1/12/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2426 with you today. My name is Meurig and I am a voter in Maize, Kansas. I am writing today encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426"

This bill would threaten the safety of my daughter. Citizens should not be living in fear. They have the right to be whoever they want. We should do all we can to support every person in Kansas.

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 HB 2426. Thank you

Braeden Curwick  
HB 2426 Opponent Written Only  
Private Citizen  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts on HB 2426 with you today. My name is Braeden Curwick and I am a voter in Topeka. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

I write as a biological male and have always identified as male. I have no transgender family members, nor have I met many Transgender Americans, but I do know this: Transgender people have existed as far back as Ancient Egypt. There are accounts of Transgender Americans as far back as the 1800s. Transgender Americans makeup less than 1% of the population in the whole country. Thus, many of us have never known one of our fellow Americans who happens to be transgender. Many do not fully understand the history and concept of our Transgender neighbors, so they've unfortunately become an easy target for fear mongering. This fear exists to divide us. A divided America loses it's community & love for our neighbors. A divided America becomes blinded to solving the everyday struggles for health & prosperity. Prejudice is a dangerous weapon which has divided & destroyed many nations. We cannot allow it to destroy our own. This bill exists as part of a nationwide effort to stir prejudice into the hearts of the people. We do not need to fully understand our Transgender American neighbors in order to at least respect their freedom to exist in a nation calling itself, "land of the free." "He who desires freedom for himself cannot deny it to others, less he lose what he has gained."

Again, I thank you all for hearing concerns with this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of HB 2426. Thank you.

Alicia Cusano-Weissenbach  
HB 2426 Opponent Written only  
Private citizen  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2426 with you today. My name is Alicia Cusano-Weissenbach and I am a voter in Douglas County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

This bill will only harm our trans community members and cause fear for people trying to live their lives.

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 HB 2426. Thank you.

Mina Dailey  
HB 2426 Opponent Written Only  
Private citizen  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing time for me and other constituents of Kansas to share our thoughts on HB 2426. My name is Mina Dailey and I am a voter in Lawrence. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on HB 2426.

Some of my nearest and dearest loved ones are transgender. They are valued friends, family, and community members. They deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. Allowing transgender Kansans to freely express themselves is a cornerstone of American values, and I believe that is what we are all here to do. I fear changing gender markers to reflect a person's sex assigned at birth and legally defining gender as biological sex will do more harm than good and put transgender Kansans in a spot that either forces them to choose between staying in Kansas or risking their lives every time they show their IDs.

Defining gender as someone's biological sex also goes against what the American Psychological Association has defined sex and gender as. As we continue to grow and learn more about the world around us, definitions change. We as a society have developed our understanding of ourselves and how we can comfortably fit in the world around us. That is what we are all trying to do, feel accepted and survive.

I fear that this bill will only do the opposite and endanger citizens across Kansas.

Thank you all for your time and for hearing my thoughts on this bill. I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of HB 2426. Thank you.

Hello! My name is Rev. Caroline Dean.

I grew up in the Baptist tradition in the South, and I am now serving as an ordained pastor in the United Church of Christ in Kansas.

First and foremost, thank you for your time.

I would like to offer a testimony that helps you understand why I stand against HB 2426.

My best friend has a transgender child. I have mentored several students and partnered with several colleagues who are in the transgender and nonbinary community. I have seen their grace and dignity in the face of many challenges.

I have also recently visited with two transgender people who moved to Kansas from Texas because of legislation that has passed there. We will be saying to our families of transgender students that they are not welcome in Kansas if this bill passes. We do not want to drive out beautiful families like these who love living in this state and who contribute their varied gifts to our communities.

I am against this bill because it discriminates broadly against trans, intersex and gender diverse individuals. This bill creates unsafe environments for people that are dear to me. Legal documentation is a huge part of our daily lives. We use our ID to get a job, engage with our bank, prepare for school, etc. This law will put transgender and nonbinary folks at risk as they engage in daily actions that require them to show an ID and therefore, they may miss out on normal important activities like seeking a job and going to school.

There are many challenges in our world around hunger, health care, infrastructure, and supporting families who are struggling financially, etc. This seems to me to be a distraction from the real work that we need to focus on.

This bill does not make our state happier or healthier. This bill makes our home more unsafe. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Blessings for this day,

Rev. Caroline Dean  
Kansas Interfaith Action  
&  
Kansas Oklahoma Conference of the United Church of Christ

# Legislative Testimony

In **Opposition** to House Bill 2426

House Committee on Judiciary

January 13, 2025

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## *Written Only Testimony*

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee,

My name is Logan DeMond, and I am the Director of Policy and Research at the American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas. The ACLU of Kansas is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with more than 35,000 supporters statewide that works to protect and strengthen the civil rights and liberties of all Kansans. On behalf of the ACLU of Kansas, I am writing in opposition to House Bill 2426. HB 2426 would require the state of Kansas to invalidate legally issued birth certificates and driver's licenses, compel Kansans to surrender their identification, and replace those documents with information dictated by the Legislature rather than lived reality. In doing so, this bill would make it harder for people to vote, work, obtain housing, access healthcare, travel, and interact with law enforcement while imposing significant administrative burdens on state agencies. This legislation does not solve an existing problem; rather, it creates new ones by targeting a small and vulnerable group of Kansans, subjecting them to unequal treatment, undermining their privacy, and destabilizing the identity documents that they rely on every day. HB 2426 will make Kansans less safe, government less efficient, and our laws less fair.

### **Lessons from *Kansas v. Harper***

In 2023, Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach filed a lawsuit in state court (Associated Press, 2023) against the Kansas Department of Revenue. In reliance on Senate Bill 180, a 2023 Kansas statute targeting transgender individuals, the Attorney General asked the court to prohibit transgender people from changing the gender markers on their driver's licenses to reflect their gender identity, and to require the state agency to list sex assigned at birth on all new and renewed licenses.

Shortly thereafter, the ACLU of Kansas, the ACLU, and Stinson LLP successfully intervened in the case on behalf of transgender Kansans threatened by the Attorney General's lawsuit. They argued not only that the plain text of SB 180 did not actually apply to driver's licenses, but also that if SB 180 were intended to apply to licenses, it would violate transgender Kansans' constitutional rights to privacy, bodily autonomy, and equality.

Although the case remains pending, the Kansas Court of Appeals unanimously held last summer that Attorney General Kobach was unlikely to prevail on his view that SB 180 requires all new and renewed driver's licenses to list the driver's sex assigned at birth. And of particular relevance to debate over HB 2426, the appellate court in *Harper* found nothing "beyond mere speculation" to support the proposition that allowing transgender individuals to change their

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gender markers would impair the identification of criminal suspects. The appellate court also left open the intervenors' constitutional arguments, which would apply equally to HB 2426. *Kansas v. Harper* provides abundant evidence that laws like HB 2426 do nothing to make us safer. Rather, they leave the state vulnerable to costly litigation and violate countless people's constitutional rights in the process.

## **Government-Mandated Identity Changes**

Setting aside the proposed bill's legal inadequacies, HB 2426 remains deeply flawed. The bill would impose sweeping, government-mandated identity changes that harm Kansans and create serious practical and administrative problems. HB 2426 would invalidate previously issued driver's licenses and birth certificates if the sex marker on those documents does not align with a rigid, birth-based definition adopted by the Legislature and compels state agencies to reissue those documents and requires affected individuals to surrender their existing identification. This is not a neutral administrative update, but a state-mandated revocation of legally recognized identity documents that Kansans have relied on for years to work, travel, vote, work, access housing, travel, and engage in daily life.

HB 2426 would also impose significant burdens on state agencies by requiring them to retroactively review, invalidate, notify, and reissue identification documents. These processes would require time, staff resources, and funding, none of which are meaningfully addressed in the bill.

At its core, HB 2426 asks the government to do something it should not do: police identity in a way that makes people less safe and less free. Identity documents exist to help the government function and to help individuals navigate their lives—not to enforce ideology or invite discrimination. Kansas does not become safer, stronger, or more efficient by stripping people of valid identification and forcing them into legal invisibility.

When identification documents are accurate and stable, communities are safer, government is more efficient, and individuals are less likely to experience discrimination or harm. HB 2426 moves Kansas in the opposite direction. If enacted, this bill would:

- Force transgender Kansans to carry identification that does not reflect who they are, exposing them to harassment and potential violence while constituting an unconstitutional form of compelled speech.
- Create barriers to employment, housing, education, healthcare, and voting, where identification is routinely required.

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# Legislative Testimony

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- Impact intersex individuals whose bodies do not fit neatly into the bill's narrow definitions.
- Undermine privacy by requiring people to disclose deeply personal information to explain why their government-issued ID does not match their presentation.

## Conclusion

HB 2426 risks setting a dangerous precedent by forcing the state to revoke valid identification, reverse years of settled policy, and insert government control into some of the most personal aspects of people's lives. This legislation would make everyday tasks more dangerous and difficult for transgender and intersex Kansans, while placing unnecessary burdens on state agencies, and inviting taxpayer-funded legal challenges. On behalf of the ACLU of Kansas, I respectfully urge the Committee to reject HB 2426 and to choose policies that uphold dignity, stability, and equal treatment for all Kansans.

Logan DeMond  
Director of Policy and Research

## References

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Kansas

TIMOTHY DODD  
HB 2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you for giving me the time to share my thoughts on HB 2426 with you today. My name is Timothy Dodd and I am a voter in Sedgwick County and Wichita Kansas. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

I am against this bill and I am not trans. I have that luxury. My identity under HB 2426 is not up for debate. HB 2426 runs counter to a proud Kansan tradition of letting citizens choose for themselves. This bill seeks to further politicize what is ultimately, an extremely personal journey. I ask my representatives to vote against HB 2426 to allow Kansans to continue that proud tradition.

Thank you all for your time and hearing my testimony. I hope you will all vote no on HB 2426.

Em Donnelly-Ramos  
HB 2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
Private Citizen  
1/13/26

Chair Humphries and members of the Committee, thank you for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2426 with you today. My name is Em and I am a voter in Topeka. I am a proud Kansan, and also a proud member of the LGBTQ+ community. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

It is not a transgender person's fault when lawmakers refuse to understand the difference between sex and gender, however, bills such as this seem to place that blame on their shoulders. Passing this legislation will absolutely harm members of a community already at risk of higher rates of depression, self-harm, and suicide due to the way LGBTQ+ folks are targeted by legislation such as this.

The word "bully" is defined as "a person who habitually seeks to harm or intimidate those who they perceive as vulnerable". That will be the exact behavior of any lawmaker who votes for this bill.

The only Kansans directly impacted by this are the ones who certain lawmakers think they can use as pawns in an unnecessary culture war, with no Kansans being positively impacted apart from those who believe this will win them an election.

By design, this is not an issue that affects most Kansans. As a voter, I am extremely disappointed that this is what this body is choosing to focus on while costs go up and many Kansans are struggling to make ends meet. It is a waste of citizens' and our elected officials' time and resources entertaining this.

The Kansas Legislature could choose to build services that will help our state thrive, but instead they seem to be obsessed with discriminating against minority communities. I implore every legislator on this committee and in the Legislature to search within their hearts and find the will to push back on bills that belittle others based on their identity and instead focus on ones that will benefit their constituents.

Once again, I thank you for hearing my thoughts on this bill. I encourage you all to vote NO on the passage of HB 2426. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Em

Kayla DuBois  
HB 2426 Opponent Written Only  
private citizen  
1/12/2026

Hello, Chair Humpries and the folks of this committeem,  
M name is Kayla. I am a voter in Honolulu County, formerly of Shawnee County. I am writing today to urge your committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

This bill is plays a role in why I left a state which four generations of my family had inhabited. Bills like this make Kansans feel less safe. My friends in Kansas feel an increased pressure to leave in order to live as themselves, but I don't believe that has to be the case.

Progress is what the state was founded on and continues to be defined by. Please be sure to get this one right. Protect my loved ones from discrimination as their rights remain under threat nationwide. Thank you.

Johnny Dunlap  
HB 2426 Opponent Written Only  
Private Citizen  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to share my concerns in writing about HB 2426. My name is Johnny Dunlap, a voter in Ford County, and I urge you to consider the implications of this legislation carefully, and then emphatically vote NO on HB 2426.

First, I oppose this bill because its definitions are unjust and unscientific, intentionally targeting a small population of Kansans and undermining their rights.

Second, it is not needed or wanted by the majority of Kansans. It wastes this committee's time because it addresses a problem that most people see no need to solve, especially since Kansas has allowed gender designation changes for years without issues, aside from the objections of a few bigots. Discrimination is not a Kansas value.

Third, bills like this are an act of bullying. The Kansas Legislature should promote respect and dignity for all citizens, not use its power to intimidate or demean transgender individuals.

Fourth, the fact that you gave only a few hours' notice for this hearing illustrates just how misguided and despicable this legislation is. If it were worthwhile, the committee would provide time for the public to weigh in. The fact that you're rushing this through committee without public participation shows you know it is legislative trash. You may even be embarrassed that it is under consideration. Hopefully, this means you intend to vote no, quietly and quickly, and that holding this hearing is just a procedural formality.

Lastly, if you are an author of this bill, please reflect on your goal for this legislation. Is it to limit the rights of certain Kansans based on your perception of them? We tried that in this country many times. We limited where people could go and how or even if they could participate in society. We limited everything from voting rights to credit cards to water fountains. This legislation is merely an imitation of such laws and has no place in the Free State of Kansas.

Thanks again for reading my written thoughts on this bill, and I strongly encourage you to vote no on HB 2426. Thank you.