

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. 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.

### **4. 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,

Mooning (Fanny) Fang

Raine Flores  
HB 2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
Private Citizen  
1/13/2026

Cualli tonanzintli. No toca Raine Xochime. Holy Blessed Day, my name is Raine Flores. I live in Douglas County. I am opponent against HB 2426 because I am Indigenous. I am Nahua, and Two-Spirited, and I have called Kansas my home since 2010. This means, by my very nature of who I am and my cultural beliefs, I cannot see others in pain, especially if they are simply living their own lives. I am a pacifist to my core. A bill like HB 2426 is very harmful to people who are, trans, intersex, and gender diverse individuals in Kansas. I sincerely believe that we are all connected, deeply connected. To other humans, and to nature, and all of existence. I am even related to you! We are all family.

By not allowing Attorney General Kris Kobcah file an appeal in 205 Kansas Supreme Court has ruled that Transgender Kansans are entitled to change their gender markers on driver licenses. By codifying this bill, I fear we are circumventing the democratic process that has historically been valued in Kansas for short term gain. This bill you rob them of the dignity that every human and living being innately deserves.

As a Nahua man, my people have historically been the victim of state endorsed violence. For example, on 22 May 1520, the Spanish colonizers committed the Massacre in the Great Temple of Tenochtitlan to my ancestors.

Basically, we were celebrating a special festival, Toxcatl, in honor of our special god, Tezcatlipoca, with the spanish as our guests. However, for reasons I cannot comprehend, they decided to attack and massacre the unprepared Nahuas, killing performers, spectators, and nobles who were all celebrating. The Spanish blocked all exits of the Temple, charging at the celebrants and brutally attacking them. They attacked all celebrants, murdering as many as they could, during the celebration of Toxcatl.

So, I hope you can understand my hesitance, and worries, to seeing similar ignorance towards those who are different in some play out, in the state I have called home since 2010. 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. Moreover, there is no law that protects transgender Kansans from discrimination, and this bill increases that risk.

Thank you all for listening to my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no on the passage of HB 2426. Tlazohcamati.

David Frahm  
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 tuned on HB 2426 with you today. My name is David Frahm, and I am a Kansan from Wichita. I am writing today asking the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

This bill directly attempts to harm Kansans that I love and care about. These attempts to legislate trans people out of existence don't suddenly make people stop being trans. They simply cause undue burdens on a small percentage of the population.

My friend Zoey, a Kansan and nurse who works to improve people's lives in her service every day, consistently is struggling with her mental health, and is at risk of suicide, precisely due to attempts in bills like this to try to make her identification show something that is simply not true, and causes her intense depression and despair. Continuing to push for this and things like this adversely impacts her, and therefore her ability to help other Kansans on a daily basis. So, not only does it harm her, but it also harms every single Kansan that she helps every single day. A vote of yes on this bill is a vote yes to harming not only some of our most vulnerable Kansans, but also the lives that they impact daily. This is a harm to her, her family, her friends, her loved ones, and all the people whose lives she improves every day.

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

Lilly French  
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 Lilly French and I am a voter in Riley, Manhattan. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426

You should vote against this policy that I believe will discriminate against those that change gender markers for any reason. Transgender people should feel safe in our state to live and work. Documents can be something that stops and/or slows you down when building the life you want from scratch. I know what it is like to start from nothing.

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.

Melissa Gard  
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 Melissa Gard and I am a voter in Wyandotte County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

I have been that since childhood that is is not only my right, but my moral obligation to speak out for those who need help. This bill does nothing to protect people, but rather takes away protections. With this bill, you're hurting families, you are hurting individuals, and you are damaging our community beyond repair. I will continue to protect those who need me to help protect them, even if it means standing up against those who believe they have a right to make these decisions. I will continue to stand up and say no when people take away rights from those who need them.

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.

Kathleen Gerber  
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 Kathleen Gerber and I am a voter in Johnson County, Overland Park. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

I am fortunate that my appearance as a white woman grants me allowances to live a relatively easy life. I am also extremely fortunate that the body I was born into is one that feels like home and comfort. However, the reality today is many people do not have these kinds of luxuries, and yet they still deserve the flexibility and support to pursue a life of liberty and happiness, just like any other Kansan and any other American. This bill prevents them from doing that, and oppresses an already extremely marginalized group even more. Transgender people face pervasive discrimination and hate-based violence just for being themselves, and this bill punches down on this population even more. Don't be a vehicle to perpetuate that hate. Don't vote for this bill.

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.

Matt Gifford  
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 Matt Gifford and I am a voter in Lawrence, Douglas County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

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.

Callie Girod  
HB 2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
Private Citizen  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, I appreciate the time to share my opinion on HB 2426 with you today. My name is Callie Girod and I am a voter in Johnson County. I am writing today to ask the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

Being a human is a right, being able to express ourselves as one is, is what makes this world a stronger, more united, beautiful place. Diversity moves us forward. Shared experiences move us forward. Being who we are, at our core, moves us forward. 'In Justice and Peace For All' is not an exclusive motto. Let all people be free. Humans are humans. No one is lesser than. This is a basic human right. Don't let someone who is different than you make you fearful and turn to hate. This is not what America is about.

Thank you for hearing my opinion on this bill. I encourage you, the committee, as your constituent, to vote no of the passage of HB 2426. Thank you.

Ruby Godsey  
HB 2426 Opponent Written Only  
Private Citizen  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on HB 2426 with you all today. My name is Ruby Godsey and I'm a voter in Sedgwick County, Wichita. I am writing today to strongly encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

I am transgender. While this aspect of my identity often largely defines me to others in social situations, I am defined by many things. I am Hispanic. I am adopted. I am a college student. I am a Kansan. Not only that, but a proud one. HB 2426 poses a threat to transgender Kansans just for applying to jobs or attending school by enacting inaccurate definitions of gender into law that allows for the discrimination of gender non-conforming Kansans. I have the privilege of higher education by attending Wichita State University and have been fortunate to be employed. However, this is not the case for all transgender Kansans. The prospect of higher education or job opportunities should not come at the cost of personal safety, yet that is the reality transgender Kansans will face if HB 2426 is passed. Currently, there are no laws protecting transgender Kansans from discrimination. This bill only sharply increases that risk. Hate has no place in Kansas. I oppose HB 2426 not only as a transgender individual, but as a proud Kansas who calls this state home.

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

Beth Goodnight  
HB 2426 Opponent Written Only  
Private citizen  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphrey 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 Beth Goodnight and I am a voter in Sedgwick County/ Maize. I am writing today to vote NO on HB 2426.

I oppose this bill because my granddaughter is trans and just wants to live. Please; this bill would do nothing but hurt people who are just trying to live. Thank you.

Once again, thank you all for hearing my thoughts on this bill, and I encouraged you all to vote know of the passage of HB2426. Than you.

Erin Goodnight  
HB 2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphrey 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 Erin Goodnight and I am a voter in Sedgwick County/Wichita. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

My niece is trans and was able to change her gender marker to female on her drivers license. Because of this she has been more confident and we feel safer knowing that she has a less chance of being discriminated against. All trans people deserve this feeling of safety.

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.

Melissa D Gould  
HB 2426 Opponent Written only  
Private citizen  
1/13/2026

Thank you to the Committee for allowing me to share my thoughts on HB 2426 today. My name is Melissa Gould and I am a voter in Butler County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO ON HB 2426.

I am a mother to two transgender young people. My children want the same things that every other person wants; to be able to live, learn, work, and play in safety; to be accepted by others; to build a life with those they love. Already in Kansas, my children have struggled to feel safe, to find acceptance, and to feel that they have a viable future. They have had to fight to be called by the names and pronouns that are appropriate for them, they have struggled with where they can safely relieve themselves or change their clothes at school, and have worried that the gender marker on their state ID would not match the gender they present to the world. This legislation would not only make public spaces less safe for my trans children, but also allow for cis-gender people to be harassed and discriminated against if someone suspects them to be trans.

Anyone who takes just a minute of time researching this issue will see that, statistically, trans people are not a risk to the safety of others; rather they are at great risk of discrimination, harassment, assault, homelessness, and of becoming victims of homicide. They are also already at great risk of dying by suicide due to the difficulties they already face today.

Please consider the wellness, health, and safety of ALL Kansas residents, not just those who may experience slight discomfort upon sharing space with a trans person. We ALL deserve privacy, safety and the pursuit of happiness.

Thank you again for hearing my thoughts on this bill. For the sake of my children and for so many lovely trans people throughout our state, please vote no on HB 2426. Thank you.

Kelly Grabendike  
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 Kelly Grabendike and I am a voter in Shawnee, KS. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426

I strongly feel that all individuals have the right to identify their gender and identity in their own way. Taking away their rights to these freedoms will not change who they are or what they feel, but will force them into hiding and unsafe practices. Our society has made so much progress in supporting our community, please do not make this harder for us and our neighbors.

Thank you for hearing me and the concerns of your constituents. We trust you to listen and act according to the desires and concerns of our community.

Dallas Grimes  
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 Dallas Grimes and I am a voter in Wichita. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

Our legislature has the power to fix so many problems around Kansas. And this is the issue that they think matters to Kansans? Boy, are they wrong. Working class Kansans can't afford to pay for groceries, rent, and other mandatory expenses and now the legislature is going to waste their time on this issue. Focus on the real issues that matter to Kansans or we will vote you out in November.

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.

Aaron Groene  
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 Aaron Groene and I am a voter in Douglas County , Lawrence. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426"

politely express why you oppose this bill and why you think legislators should vote against it. Try using a personal story about why blocking the passage of HB 2426 matters to you!

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."

Ellyn Gunya  
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 Ellyn Gunya and I am a voter in Roeland Park, KS. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

This bill would be harmful to many of my friends, patients, and colleagues who have had their identification documents accurately reflect their identity. This bill would cause harm and put hardworking Kansans at risk. You have the power to stop this non-sense bill and keep Kansas a free state for all.

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.

Janis Guyot  
HB 2426 opponent Written only  
PFLAG Lawrence  
1/13/2026

Dear Members of the Committee,

Thank you for giving me a chance to share my thoughts on HB 2426. My name is Janis Guyot and I live in Lawrence Kansas in Douglas County. I am writing today to encourage you to vote no on HB 2426.

I am not only the mother of a transgender woman but am the president of a non Profit PFLAG Lawrence that is a LGBTQ+ ally organization. I have seen what misgendering transgender individuals and not allowing them to live their authentic selves does to their morale and life happiness. These individuals just want to live a life as we do and not allowing them to identify as the sex they identify as puts them at risk of harm. I would hope you would at least try to meet some transgender individuals and get to understand why this bill is so cruel and hateful.

Once again, I am asking you to please consider voting no to HB 2426. Thank you for your time.

DEE H.  
HB 2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on HB 2426. My name is Dee and I am a voter in Douglas county. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

This bill manages the impressive feat of being both needlessly cruel and a complete waste of resources. Healthcare costs are skyrocketing, food insecurity is rising, and the legislature has decided our priority should be wasting time and money on reissuing identification for the sole purpose of hurting transgender Kansans.

Transgender people are NOT A THREAT. They are our neighbors, our friends, our coworkers, our family. They are just trying to live happily in a world that is often hostile to them. Forcing them to change their gender markers protects nobody. All it does is increase the odds of harassment and discrimination. It is inhumane and unjust.

I have a young nephew who is exploring his gender identity. He likes to wear dresses and wants to grow his hair out. Maybe someday he'll change his pronouns; maybe he won't. Whatever the case, he should be free to make those discoveries about himself in a loving, supportive environment: a community that accepts him for who he is and doesn't make bigoted assumptions or try to force him into a box that makes him miserable.

I thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill. I ask you to really sit with my testimony and others like it. To truly listen to what we're saying and think about the human lives you're harming. To find your empathy and create a world where people like my nephew can thrive, without fear of oppression and hate.

I encourage you all to vote NO on HB 2426. Thank you.

Monroe Hanson  
HB 2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
1/13/2026

Greetings House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Monroe Hanson. I have lived in Kansas for 14 years. I grew up here, I went to university here, I live here. I am writing today in opposition of HB 2426, which seeks to invalidate and reissue driver's licenses in order to misidentify and belittle an extremely small portion of the Kansas population that identifies as transgender, or who have otherwise needed their gender marker/birth certificate corrected.

I am also writing in opposition of the underhanded tactics that fast-tracked this bill to hearing on the second day of the legislative session, and which has not given the public any time at all to respond to the bill and share their voices in our democratic process. We have not even been given the two days notice that the Committee requires for in person or virtual testimony. This bill and bills like it, that target such a small percentage of the population of Kansas and is not a beneficial or productive use of our legislator's time, are vehemently opposed by every day Kansans, including myself. HB 2426 and similar bills are extremely unpopular. If the public had been given any time at all, this Committee would be receiving 100s of testimonies in opposition, as Committees have for all anti-trans bills proposed in Kansas.

I think HB 2426 is sad and cruel. Up until SB 180 passed in 2023, Kansans had been permitted to change their gender markers on their driver's licenses and birth certificates, and there was no negative impact to the state or to law enforcement. This is an infringement of personal rights and liberties and overreach of the state.

Please spend your time representing the actual needs of actual Kansans, instead of propelling a hate campaign forward. Actual Kansans care about our trans neighbors, our fellow Kansans, and want them to live their lives happily, productively, and authentically.

I am firmly in opposition to HB 2426, and I urge you to vote against this bill that does not provide any benefit to the state, that hurts Kansans, and that is woefully unpopular. Thank you for your time today and your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Monroe Hanson

HB2426 Opposition Testimony 1.13.26

Dear Representative Humphries and members of the Committee on Judiciary

House Bill no. 2426 does nothing to help Kansans with their lives but only seeks to distract from larger societal problems by focusing on letters on a private individual's identification. What appears on someone's driver's license does not affect anyone besides themselves and thus should not matter to this legislature. A study from the National Institute of Health proved that allowing people to change the gender marker on their IDs significantly reduces reports of depression and anxiety. I would presume that this body wants Kansans to be happy, and if that is the case this legislation must be shut down. In my own life, I have seen friends suffer because their identification was incorrect and removing their ability to change this will only make the situation worse. People who have changed the gender marker on their licenses will have their identities deemed "invalid." This puts work onto DMVs after they are already almost always busy with people having actual issues with their license. This would unnecessarily cost even more money for the state, which could be spent truly helping Kansans in other ways.

Section four of the bill deals with the "Help not Harm Act" by making an already harmful act even worse by removing the definition of gender. This would conflict with the American Psychiatric Association, which defines gender in similar, but broader, terms than the law currently does. Removing this definition serves to deny any objective truth and replace it with a subjective belief. Later, this section removes the provision that states sex does not determine gender. This is not true, as biological men and women can have very different genders within their own sex. No two women are the same, and no two men are the same. One's sex can conflict with their gender, and this should not be an issue for members of this body. Gender is both one's internal identity as man, woman, or something else combined with how they present themselves in varying degrees of masculinity, femininity, or avoiding the binary altogether. This is true throughout history. In many cultures, biological sex does not determine gender. This is common in Indigenous American, Indian, and certain Balkan areas. Section five then makes it so anyone whose gender does not align with their sex is reported by their sex at birth in statistics. This erases these people from history entirely as they will not be recorded as who they truly are. This can also skew statistics, since someone who is a man but has female sex organs will likely act more like men across Kansas than women. This bill accomplishes nothing, increases the financial burden on the state, and hurts Kansan citizens. I ask members of this committee to not pass on this bill and reject its hateful views. As well, the date of this hearing being so early in the legislative session does not allow the public time to prepare proper testimony on the issue, and so consideration of this bill should at least be postponed to allow for further input from taxpaying Kansas citizens.

Sincerely,  
Isaac Hargett

Brigette Hayes  
HB 2426 opponent written only  
private citizen  
1/6/2026

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 Brigette Hayes and I am a voter in Topeka. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

HB 2426 will harm people. By requiring an individual to have a license and birth certificate with their sex assigned at birth the State is essentially outing them and that can be dangerous for the individual. Trans individuals are subject to discrimination, violence, sexual assault, and murder. I invite you to read Evje, J., Fluit, S., & von Soest, T. (2024). Transgender people experience more discrimination and violence than cisgender lesbian, gay, or bisexual people: a multilevel analysis across 30 European countries. *International Journal of Transgender Health*, 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.1080/26895269.2024.2440856>. I invite you to watch <https://youtu.be/nVQplt7Chos?si=RkgitsXupEmKpdU4>.

HB 2426 claims that the State is looking for the safety of individuals but this legislation will endanger individuals.

I also noted a misogynistic bent in the language of the legislation. "(A) "female" is an individual whose biological reproductive system is developed to produce ova, and a "male" is an individual whose biological reproductive system is developed to fertilize the ova of a female." Female is something acted upon and male is doing the action.

Misogyny is often named as a base to transphobia.

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.

To: House Judiciary Committee, Kansas Legislature

From: William J. Heatherman, Manhattan

Date: January 12, 2026

RE: Opposition to HB 2426, Concerning Transgender Kansans.

Testimony Intended for the Record of Planned 1/13/26 Hearing

Dear. Chair Humphries, Ranking Member Osman and Committee

HB 2426 continues the harassment and stigmatization of transgender Kansans. It disrupts their right to a peaceful existence consistent with their own self-knowledge and understanding of gender. It further enables a culture of bigotry and prejudice against fellow citizens and impedes upon their civil rights. This helps no one and hurts many. Society has dealt harshly with transgender people for centuries – but we can do better.

Transgender individuals are already at higher risks of poverty and violence. I do have a transgender person in my circle of family and friends. While I cannot speak fully to their experience – I can clearly see the harm this legislation does.

Please stop.

Lori Hephner  
HB2426 Opponent Written Only  
Private Citizen  
1/12/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you for hearing my thoughts on HB 2426. My name is Lori Hephner and I am a voter in Sedgwick County/Wichita. I am asking the committee to vote NO on HB 2426"

HB 2426 will be used to discriminate and create unsafe environments for trans, intersex, and gender diverse individuals. This law will put transgender people at higher risk of hate based violence anytime and anywhere they need to show their ID. Turning every day places into unsafe places for them. Every human being deserves safe places to live their lives.

There is no law that protects transgender Kansans from discrimination and this bill increases that risk. This policy is dangerous to many Kansans, including members of the LGBTQ+ community.

This bill has nothing to do with protecting women. It endangers the lives of transgender Kansans, and keeps them from being able to access domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, and other essential spaces and services. All human beings are equal, and should be treated with respect, dignity, and allowed to exist in peace and safety. And without fear and violence which will be the result of this bill.

Thank you for listening and hearing my thoughts on HB2426. Please vote no. Thank you.

Ethan Herman  
HB 2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
Johnson County Young Democrats Board Member  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and members of the committee, thank you for your time and for hearing my thoughts on HB 2426. My name is Ethan Herman and I am a voter in Johnson County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426

Respectfully, this bill does not benefit the people of Kansas. Instead, it targets and harms a community that already faces constant discrimination and abuse. At a time when Kansans are struggling with real issues like affordability, this legislation is a distraction from the work that actually needs to be done. I hope our state legislators choose to focus on policies that strengthen our communities and improve life for all Kansans, without singling anyone out or undermining their dignity based on race, sex, gender, religion, or any other personal characteristic.

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

Amy Hill  
HB 2426 Opponent Written Only  
Private citizen  
1/12/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee:

My name is Amy Hill and I am a voter in Olathe. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

Transgender people are not dangerous. They are simply choosing to live their life in the way most comfortable to them and should be able to record the gender they choose. Allowing them to choose their gender on their documents costs you nothing.

As a female, I get up every day and put makeup on because I feel more comfortable and confident in the world with makeup. Transgender people are doing the same thing - choosing to present themselves in the way they feel most confident.

Please focus your efforts in areas that will benefit the majority of Kansans vs taking rights away from a very small group of individuals that pose no threat.

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

Alan Hinrichs  
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 Alan Hinrichs and I am a voter in Johnson County/Olathe. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426

Updating a transgender person's birth certificate and drivers license is important for legal recognition, safety, and well-being. Allowing someone to align their official documents with their true gender identity helps to avoid discrimination, harassment, and administrative hurdles in daily life. Furthermore, the trans community is already at a high risk for discrimination, updating these legal documents provides psychological affirmation, reduces distress, and offers vital protection against violence by ensuring consistent identification across all records.

As a person of faith, I am deeply concerned about the impact this bill will have on the lives of transgender people. Christianity teaches us to love one another and work to improve the lives of all people. This bill does nothing to improve lives, in fact it does quite the opposite, and repercussions from this bill could put transgender lives at stake.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I encourage you to vote no on the passage of HB 2426. Thank you.

Amy Hinrichs  
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 Amy Hinrichs and I am a voter in Johnson County/Olathe. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426

Updating a transgender person's birth certificate and drivers license is important for legal recognition, safety, and well-being. Allowing someone to align their official documents with their true gender identity helps to avoid discrimination, harassment, and administrative hurdles in daily life. Furthermore, the trans community is already at a high risk for discrimination, updating these legal documents provides psychological affirmation, reduces distress, and offers vital protection against violence by ensuring consistent identification across all records.

As a person of faith, I am deeply concerned about the impact this bill will have on the lives of transgender people. Christianity teaches us to love one another and work to improve the lives of all people. This bill does nothing to improve lives, in fact it does quite the opposite, and repercussions from this bill could put transgender lives at stake.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I encourage you to vote no on the passage of HB 2426. Thank you.

Monika Hoffman  
HB 2462 Opponent Written Only  
Private Citizen  
1/13/2026

My name is Monika Hoffman and I am a voter in Leavenworth County, Kansas. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2462.

This bill is exclusionary and limiting. Those who identify outside of biological sex, or those who are intersex will be further ostracized due to this bill. There are roughly the same number of intersex individuals as there are redheads, so excluding a large number of the population will do nothing but negatively impact their life. Those with medical conditions such as Complete Androgyny Syndrome will also have a harder time making sure their documentation aligns with their identities.

Thank you all for listening to this testimony and thoughts in this bill. I thoroughly encourage you all to vote no of the passage of HB 2426.

Kay Holland  
HB 2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
Private Citizen  
1/13/2026

I want to begin by offering thanks to members of the committee for taking the time and for considering the thoughts of a lifelong Kansan on proposed bill HB2426 today. I am Kay Holland of Douglas County and I write today to strongly implore members of this committee to vote NO on HB2426.

In a world currently so stoked with division, frustration, and rising costs of living in every sector, the urge to uncover and other a scapegoat is very real. I feel stressors myself, I see it in the faces of my community members, of grocery store clerks, my coworkers, of random passerbys-- there seems to be less joy in the world, and fewer opportunities for the social glue of our shared humanity to find points of adhesion. I say this, reluctantly, because I believe no matter our color, creed, or beliefs, this is all something we agree we can strive toward: that the world needs more joy, more safety, and more friendly neighbors.

HB 2426 does nothing to accomplish that shared goal, and does a lot to infringe on the well-being of some out our most vulnerable Kansans. ID documentation is more than a legal framework-- it is a representation of the persons we present into the world, and in a world that's so divided, the right to documentation that doesn't throw ones' safety into jeopardy should not be infringed. I do not see how HB 2426 could tangibly, meaningfully improve the lives of any Kansan, and by the number of testimonies submitted today in opposition, I hope the potential harms of this bill are obvious.

No bill that is so hastily thrown into this chamber for hearing is here strictly on merit. No bill that is thrown so hastily into hearing is a part of an honest and open discussion with the best interests of Kansans' safety at heart. No bill that is so hastily thrown into hearing is done so with open ears and in the interest of good-faith conversations with our neighbors. Safety cannot be written into law, nor prescribed in scripture-- it's made by making peace and concessions with those you share differences with.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my perspective. I wish us all to strive towards conversations, decisions, and actions that can culminate in a safer Kansas that better serves the goals of its communities-- HB2426 does not accomplish that. Please vote 'NO'.

Sincerest thanks,

TO: The Honorable Susan Humphries, Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Tyler Holmes

RE: Written Testimony in OPPOSITION of HB 2426  
AN ACT amending the women's bill of rights; defining the term "gender" to mean biological sex at birth for purposes of statutory construction; directing the director of the division of motor vehicles to invalidate and reissue driver's licenses when necessary to correct the gender identification on such licenses; directing the office of vital statistics to invalidate and reissue birth certificates when necessary to correct the sex identification on such certificates; removing the definition of "gender" from the help not harm act; amending K.S.A. 8-234a and K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 8-243, 65-28,137 and 77-207 and repealing the existing sections.

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee:

I oppose House Bill 2426, a clear response to ongoing litigation in *State ex rel. Kobach v. Harper*, a matter which rose to the Kansas Court of Appeals last year and remains before the Shawnee County District Court. This litigation and this bill is a concerted legal effort to attack the dignity of transgender Kansans in exchange for no benefit to the safety and wellbeing of Kansans.

In its June 2025 decision, the Kansas Court of Appeals interrogated the alleged harm of allowing gender markers on driver's licenses to be different from their biological sex assigned at birth:

The harm alleged in the AG's memorandum in support of a temporary injunction was (1) inaccurate information on a driver's license could affect where a law enforcement officer can accurately identify a person; (2) "a mismatch between the sex on a warrant and identification could allow a wanted person to escape"; (3) housing a biological female alongside male inmates poses a risk to the female; (4) the biological sex of a donor has a documented effect on the success of a transplant operation; and (5) allowing the practice of using an identifier other than biological sex as defined in K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 77-207 on the front of the license would mean noncompliant licenses could not be clawed back for six years, resulting in continuing the harm already noted.

*State ex rel. Kobach v. Harper*, 65 Kan. App. 2d 680, 695, 571 P.3d 6, 17 (2025).

The Court found:

- The Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR) "has been allowing this process since 2007, through 5 governors and at least 16 different legislative sessions." 65 Kan. App. 2d. at 696.
- From 2011 to 2022, roughly **380** drivers had their sex designation on the front of their licenses changed out of **9,316,937** driver's licenses (.004% of driver's licenses issued were changed, assuming an original issue date in that same time period). *Id.*
- "At least 45 states allow gender reclassification of the sex listed on their licenses". *Id.* at 700.

Further to the provision's impracticality, the Kansas Court of Appeals found, "The evidence in the record simply does not support the conclusion that gender markers on driver's licenses inhibit law enforcement's ability to identify an individual or to arrest people who violate the law." *Id.* The Detention Bureau Commander of the Johnson County Sheriff's Office "testified that his office uses the arrest report, not the driver's license, to identify a person booked into the jail. ...[A]ccording to Commander Newson, the driver's license was not the 'major' document they used and, actually, was one 'lower in the level of importance.'" *Id.* at 697-698 (Quotation marks simplified from original.).

This legislation is a solution in search of a problem. Worse, it attempts to further legalize discrimination. Please move on to the important business of the state, including its access to justice problems.

M HOROWITZ  
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 M Horowitz, and I am a voter in Douglas County. 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 Kansans. This bill purports to protect women; instead, it risks the lives of transgender Kansans by prohibiting individuals from accessing restrooms, domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, and other essential spaces and services.

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

ARIANA HOWARD  
HB 2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
1/13/2026

Greetings, committee members. My name is Ariana Howard, and I am a voter in Lawrence. I write today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

I believe this issue is important for Kansans because passing this bill would lead to the regular endangerment of myself and everyone like me, by means of forcing our identities as trans people to be made known with whatever agencies, public and private, that we interact with. It is simply not realistic to state that the marker on licenses only intends to show the presence or absence of specific gonadal tissue at birth. The marker is specifically and most frequently used as a measure to assist an authenticating party in verifying at a glance the document's legitimacy against the appearance of the person depicted.

Incongruity between the marker and the presented gender of the holder opens the door for a number of consequences, from simple denial of service to accusation of fraud, to, quite realistically, detainment or arrest. Depending on the beliefs and reactivity of the person authenticating the document, we may even be put at risk of physical violence. To say this is justified by having the marker accurately indicate the presence of tissue is simply asinine. If this bill passes, it will serve as a stain of continuously inflicted cruelty on the lives of Kansans in each of your constituencies.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity for me to share my thoughts on this bill. I encourage each of you to vote NO on HB 2426. Thank you.

Hannah Howard  
HB 2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts on HB 2426. My name is Hannah Howard and I am a voter in Johnson County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426

This bill rests on the assumption that biological sex is always clearly defined as male or female at birth. That assumption is not scientifically accurate. Intersex people are born with naturally occurring variations in chromosomes, hormones, gonads, or anatomy that do not fit neatly into binary sex categories. These traits are recognized by the medical community and are not rare anomalies.

HB 2426 will put into law inaccurate definitions relating to gender that will be used to discriminate broadly. By mandating that state records reflect only a binary definition of sex assigned at birth, this bill risks misclassifying individuals and forcing inaccurate documentation upon them. Reissuing or invalidating legal documents under an oversimplified definition of gender may create confusion, legal obstacles, and unnecessary harm for people who do not conform to these assumptions.

Accurate language matters. Laws that ignore established biological diversity risk being both factually incorrect and harmful in practice. Public records should reflect reality, not erase it.

I urge you to vote no on HB 2426 and to consult medical experts and intersex advocates before advancing legislation that defines gender in a way that excludes part of the population of Kansas. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kelsey Hunter  
Regarding HB 2426  
01/12/2026

To the House Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Kelsey Hunter and I am a concerned Kansas resident. I am a social worker and university staff member, and I am testifying about how I believe HB 2426 would harm the wellbeing of Kansans and infringe upon our individual liberties.

I have over ten years' experience in the sexual violence prevention field and I hold a master's degree in social work. Based on my experience and knowledge, I strongly oppose this bill. Not only does HB 2426 target a small and vulnerable population of transgender, non-binary, and intersex Kansans, but it also puts all Kansans at risk. It is not the appropriate role of state agents such as the director of the division of motor vehicles to attempt to screen the biological sex of Kansas citizens, or to make determinations about Kansans' private medical information when that information is not pertinent to the person's ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.

If state agents feel empowered to cancel or reissue state identification documents based on their perceptions of a person's gender, it will have devastating impacts on Kansans. This could delay or prevent Kansans from enrolling in school, getting a job, traveling, voting, or driving to work or school. For transgender, non-binary, and intersex people, losing identification that matches how they are perceived by others could increase their risk of experiencing harassment or violence, and many others may be targeted as well. As a Kansas woman, if I choose not to wear makeup, wear my hair long, or wear dresses, will I be at risk of losing my driver's license if a DMV employee doesn't think I look like their idea of a woman? If passed, this bill would make all Kansans less safe.

I have lived in Kansas all my life, and I was raised with the values of individual liberty, freedom, privacy and small government. I believe that this bill would be an example of government overreach that would violate the privacy of Kansans. It would be a mistake to change our current state identification system.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Kelsey Hunter, MSW

Amanda Jaquays  
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 Amanda Jaquays and I am a voter in Lawrence, KS IN Douglas County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426

As the daughter of a trans woman, this bill goes directly against my values and lived experiences. When my mother transitioned, her ability to use the correct gender on her legal ids gave me a huge sense of relief because it was one less way she could be targeted. Stripping protections away from trans members of the community and forcing them to identify as their biological sex not only makes them a more vulnerable and easily targeted but also increases their risk for suicide.

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

Clayton Jarrard  
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 Clayton Jarrard and I am a voter in Lawrence, Douglas County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426

I am against this bill because it is inaccurate and dangerous to my friends and family. This bill is not promoting safety but trying to target a minority of our community. Growing up, I was raised as a boy, dressed as a boy, and acted like a boy. But despite everything I did to try to seem "normal," I was also bullied and mocked, called "gay," a "guy-girl," and a "sissy" for reasons I could not explain or change. I don't identify as trans, nonbinary, or gender expansive, but that didn't matter. While I now would not see these terms as derogatory (and they were intended to be derogatory), I shudder to think about what it would be like to go through bullying like that with these harmful bills embroiling local politics with bullying. If bullies called 12-year-old me a "guy-girl" with this bill present, all of the bullying would be magnified. Going to the bathroom, playing sports, being in school activities--all of the things that made growing up bearable or just survivably--would be under scrutiny. I cannot emphasize enough how harmful this bill is, both in its inaccuracy and in its targetting of portions of Kansas communities for violence. Please vote against this bill. Rather than solve anything, it will just escalate tensions and further victimize people that are just trying to live their life.

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.

YOUR NAME  
HB 2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
1/12/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, my name is Jenna and I am a voter in Topeka. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

I believe Kansans deserve to be themselves. I think it is a waste of time to try to define terms so strictly when there are real problems going on like cost of living. We're already facing a crisis where people think the government is all bureaucracy and doesn't actually help its constituents with their tax dollars. This method of supporting women is way less effective than other things you could be doing and is not proven to help in the way you claim. Are we really paying your wages with our tax dollars to discuss definitions? How can you sleep at night knowing our hard earned money is supporting these do-nothing virtue signaling unproven "solutions". It's also the same thing every year with you people and you can't even pass it.

Those are my thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of HB 2426. Thank you."

Caitlin Johnson  
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. My name is Caitlin Johnson 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 not only cause distress to transgender Kansans emotionally, but it will put them in danger as well. I know many trans people who pass as the gender they are more aligned with and have changed the gender marker on their license--by forcing their license to be changed back, you are putting them at risk of being targeted for violent attacks, as we've seen time and time again. I urge you to protect your constituents from any and all potential harm.

Once again, thank you for reading my thoughts on this bill. Please vote no on the passage of HB 2426.

**Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary  
In Opposition to HB 2426**

January 13, 2026

Chair Humphries and Committee Members,

Prior to 2023, Kansans were permitted to update their gender markers in accordance with rules implemented by the Kansas Department of Revenue. Between 2023 and 2025, this procedure was banned based on a lawsuit by Attorney General Kobach. This lawsuit argued that the procedure a) violated 2023's SB 180, which legally defined trans people out of existence, and b) put Kansans in danger by confusing law enforcement and medical professionals with regard to "correctly" identifying a person's sex or gender.

Attorney General Kobach's arguments were weak enough that the Kansas Court of Appeals found that neither held up in June of 2025. Similarly, the Kansas Supreme Court refused to hear the case after the fact. The matter has been settled. One must question why the Committee on Judiciary views this issue as the most pressing one to address at the very start of the 2026 legislative session.

Regardless, while I am unable to testify in person today, I assure you that, in my day-to-day life, I am understood by everyone to be male. You can verify this by a simple Google search of my name. If I were to use the women's restroom, for instance, I would be immediately scrutinized and forced out – *despite* the fact that I was assigned female at birth. Even if you believe me to be female based on that fact, the fact of the matter is that strangers do not see me as such. To argue that it is more correct and efficient to have my identification label me as female ironically creates even *more* problems.

During the ban on gender marker changes, I was fortunate enough to not have to renew or replace my driver's license. However, I lived in constant anxiety about what might have happened if I *had* needed to replace my license and my gender marker switched back to F. When people believe that you do not match the gender marker on your identification, things become

uncomfortable at best and scary at worst. I was fearful of being subjected to humiliating and invasive procedures to prove that I was actually assigned female at birth and that I wasn't just a man "pretending" to be a woman. I was also anxious about the prospect of being accused of *fraud* for having an F on my license instead of an M.

I understand that being transgender is an unsettling and unfamiliar concept to most people. At the end of the day, however, I am still just a person who wants to move through the world without troubling others or being troubled. Imagine if you were constantly subject to scrutiny, harassment, and disbelief because you are forced to have identification that contradicts how others understand you.

The true irony is that SB 180 – the so-called "Women's Bill of Rights" – is supposed to protect people assigned female at birth but actively endangers me and others like me.

Thank you,

Isaac Johnson, LMSW

Laura Johnson  
HB 2426 Opponent Written Only  
Private Citizen  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you for taking the time to hear my thoughts on HB 2426. My name is Laura Linder and I am a constituent from Olathe, KS. I am writing today to urge the members of this committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

My two main oppositions to this bill are personal and financial. From a personal viewpoint, I find it ill advised to put into law an overly broad definition of gender. Defining gender to mean biological sex at birth is inaccurate as they are not interchangeable. Gender is cultural and we can see that as it has changed over time. We in America would not consider it a "typical" gender expression for a male to wear a skirt, and yet that a kilt viewed as incredibly masculine in Scotland. Our founding fathers wore heels. Biological sex has not changed over time and is scientific and sometimes complicated. This bill makes a weak effort to address those who are intersex, but makes no account for how that will show up on driver's licenses. Furthermore, while it claims to "protect women", it also puts into law language about perceived gender and sex which can harm women identified that way at birth by overly policing their appearance. My husband is 6'5". When I was young, I was broad-shouldered and flat-chested. Should my future daughter enter high school as a 6' girl with broad shoulders and a flat chest, will she now be put through increased scrutiny or face dangerous situations because the law says she doesn't match her "perceived gender" or sex?

Financially, this is an unnecessary cost for taxpayers. The bill does not mention where this money will come from to send the notices, recreate the licenses, etc. We should be more concerned with funding our children's education or improving the infrastructure in our state than spending money to change a driver's license. Individuals who want to discriminate against the trans community can do that on their own dime, not the taxpayer's dollars.

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

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

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for reading and considering my opposition on HB 2426. I respectfully oppose this bill due to the following reasons:

### **1. It will cause legal and practical 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.

### **2. Narrow legal definition of sex, and human experience.**

HB 2426 will impose a single definition of “gender” to biological sex at birth. This ignores and disregards the experiences of transgender, non-binary, and gender-diverse Kansans. These legal definitions might further harm an already marginalized group of our community.

### **3. It takes away 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.

### **4. This might cause conflict with current law and legislation**

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.

### **In conclusion**

HB 2426 will not improve state services or legal clarity. Instead, it would negatively impact or even harm a large community of our state. It will not improve day to day life for a majority of people, and instead inflict emotional distress for many. I respectfully oppose this bill, and instead seek policies that protect all Kansans.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Emma Jorgensen

Casper Judd

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 Casper Judd and I am a voter in Topeka. I am a proud Kansan, and 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.

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 listening to my thoughts on this bill. I encourage you all to vote NO on the passage of HB 2426. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Casper Judd

(He/Him/His)

Moriah Judd  
HB 2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
Private Citizen  
1/13/26

Chair Huphries and members of the Committee, thank you for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2426 with you today. My name is Moriah Judd 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.

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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,

Moriah Judd

Kathy Kappes-Sum  
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 Kathy Kappes-Sum and I am a voter in Shawnee. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

As the parent of a trans young adult, I'm asking you to stop trying to make their lives harder. There's no reason to discriminate further against an unprotected class. Trans people are a very small percentage of our population and they just want to live their lives in peace like everyone else.

It's important that they are able to change their birth certificates and drivers licenses so they correspond with how they feel about themselves and how they look. This misguided attempt to protect women will instead make trans people targets of discrimination and hate-based violence. I do not believe that is in anyone's best interest.

The more our legislators propose and pass bills restricting the rights of LGBTQ+ people, the more we will continue to lose young people to other states that accept people for who they are.

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

## **Written Testimony in Opposition to Kansas House Bill 2426**

**Submitted to:** Kansas House Committee

**Submitted by:** Erin Joy Keith-Chancy, Kansas Resident

**Date:** January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026

I submit this testimony **in my personal capacity as a citizen of the State of Kansas**. The views expressed here are my own and **do not represent the positions of any current or former employer, institution, or professional organization**.

While I hold advanced degrees in healthcare and education, I am not appearing before the committee as a clinician, educator, or expert witness. I am offering these comments as a concerned Kansan who values constitutional governance, responsible policymaking, and evidence-informed decision-making.

**Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to House Bill 2426.** I am deeply concerned about the legal, administrative, and human consequences of this legislation, particularly given its overlap with provisions previously enacted through SB 180, which remain under active litigation.

HB 2426 seeks to codify restrictions on gender markers that raise serious constitutional questions, impose unnecessary administrative burdens, and create foreseeable harm—without demonstrating a clear or compelling public benefit.

**Advancing HB 2426 While Related Provisions Are in Litigation Is Premature.** House Bill 2426 substantially mirrors restrictions previously advanced through SB 180—restrictions that are currently being challenged in court. Proceeding with new legislation that codifies similar provisions **before the judiciary has resolved those legal questions** exposes the State of Kansas to avoidable risk.

This approach invites additional litigation, increases taxpayer expense, and undermines confidence in the legislative process. Regardless of one's views on gender policy, it is prudent governance to allow the courts to complete their review before expanding or duplicating contested statutory language.

**HB 2426 Raises Serious Constitutional and Civil Concerns.** HB 2426 places the state in the position of defining and enforcing a narrow legal classification of sex for purposes of identification and public administration. Laws that single out a specific group of people and restrict their ability to obtain accurate legal documents raise significant concerns related to equal protection and due process.

These are not abstract issues. Identification documents are used for employment, housing, travel, education, and civic participation. When the state mandates documentation that does not align with an individual's lived reality or existing records, it increases the likelihood of discrimination, administrative conflict, and legal challenge.

**The Bill Creates Administrative Confusion Without Clear Standards.** From a practical standpoint, HB 2426 would require implementation across multiple state and local systems, including vital records, public education, healthcare administration, and public safety. Yet the bill provides little clarity regarding:

- How conflicts between state records and federal or out-of-state documents would be resolved
- How existing court-ordered document changes would be treated
- How intersex individuals would be classified
- Which agency bears enforcement responsibility

The result is predictable inconsistency, confusion for state employees, and increased administrative costs.

**No Demonstrated Public Benefit Justifies the Harm.** Supporters of legislation such as HB 2426 often assert that it is necessary to protect public safety or the integrity of public records. However, no credible evidence has been presented demonstrating that restricting gender markers advances either goal.

In contrast, research consistently shows that accurate identification documents are associated with improved safety, stability, and well-being for affected individuals. Laws that interfere with accurate documentation create barriers—not solutions.

**Limited Government Should Mean Restraint in Personal Matters.** Kansas has a strong tradition of valuing individual liberty and limited government. HB 2426 moves the state in the opposite direction by expanding government control over deeply personal aspects of identity without clear necessity. The role of the legislature is to solve concrete public problems—not to legislate identity or substitute ideology for evidence. *Where have I heard that before?* For these reasons, **I respectfully urge the committee to oppose House Bill 2426. At minimum, the legislature should refrain from advancing this bill while related provisions remain under judicial review.**

As a Kansas citizen, I ask that lawmakers approach this issue with restraint, humility, and respect for constitutional principles, administrative practicality, and the real lives of the people affected. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Erin Keith-Chancy (535 Elm St, Lawrence KS 66044)

Michaela Kerls Esq.  
HB 2426 Opponent Written Only  
Private Citizen  
1/12/2026

Chair Humphries and honorable members of the committee, I write to you to share my thoughts on HB 2426. My name is Michaela Kerls a voter in Shawnee county. I urge you to vote no on HB 2426. Now is a time to do not what is easy but what is right.

A yes vote will only serve to build enmity amongst our fellow citizens. You seek to define us out of existence but your word play does nothing to diminish my light. I will continue to seek justice as a proud trans Kansas attorney. I will work hard every day, pay my taxes, and love my neighbor as myself even if you choose not to.

Thank you for your consideration not that I expect you to read to this point. Please vote no on HB 2426.

Rija Khan  
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 Rija and I am a voter in Johnson County, Olathe. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426

Gender is a way people describe and understand themselves beyond the sex they were assigned at birth. This isn't something unique to Kansas or even the United States, it's a concept that appears across cultures worldwide. Many religions, including Hinduism, have long explored diverse expressions of gender through their deities and traditions. Will this bill go against individuals religious freedom?

There is no "right" or "wrong" way for someone to express who they are. Yet this bill attempts to impose a single definition of identity onto every Kansan. At a time when our state is facing urgent challenges such as rising living costs, threats to human rights, and long-term issues that will take years to repair; this is not where our lawmakers' focus should be.

I am asking you not to pass this bill. You cannot, and should not, decide for me, your constituent, who I am or how I should be. Kansas is already navigating significant difficulties, and this legislation would only deepen the struggles many people here are facing. Passing this bill pushes the narrative of hate by making it unsafe for certain population such as non-binary to exist.

Support us. Stand with us. Do not add to the burdens Kansans are already carrying.

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.

JEANNE KOONTZ  
HB 2426 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee,  
Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on HB 2426. My name is Jeanne Koontz and I am a voter in Hutchinson/Reno County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

As a woman, I am offended and angered by legislation that uses the protection of women as a smoke screen to put the lives of the LGBTQ+ community at risk. All people should be able to access restrooms, domestic violence shelters and other essential spaces without fear of discrimination or harassment, regardless of their gender. No matter how you feel or what you believe about gender identity, all people should be treated fairly and have access to what they need to thrive. Quit wasting time on bills that take away people's rights and use your time to work for legislation that actually makes a difference in the quality of life for Kansans.

I encourage you all to vote no on HB 2426. Thank you.

Kara Kopchinski  
HB 2426 Opponent Written only  
Private citizen  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Member of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts on HB 2426 with you. My name is Kara Kopchinski, and I am a voter in Douglas County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

As I understand it, part of the goal of HB 2426 is to protect women. As a woman, I appreciate that the committee wishes to improve the safety of women in Kansas. However, this bill seems actually focused on targeting a small portion of the population, rather than making meaningful changes to aid women. Per the 2024 Domestic Violence, Stalking, and Sexual Assault Report from the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, an incidence of domestic violence occurs approximately every 24 minutes. 85% of the suspects identified by law enforcement were men close to the victims. I fear for my own safety more from the random man in a parking lot at night than a person who has gone to great lengths to change their driver's license to indicate they are a woman. Beyond my belief that this bill will not protect women in any way, I oppose this bill because it puts my fellow Kansans in danger every time they have to use an ID that doesn't match who they are. I oppose this bill because the definitions of gender do not align with the recommendations of any medical organizations. I oppose this bill because it does a disservice to the legacy of Kansas as a Free State, where all people are granted rights regardless of the color of their skin or their sex as assigned at birth.

I appreciate you taking the time to hear feedback from myself and others in the community as you consider this bill, and I encourage you to vote NO on the passage of HB 2426. Thank you.

Thea Lake  
HB 2426 Opponent Written Only  
Private Citizen  
1/12/2026

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 Thea Lake and I am a voter in Topeka. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

My driver's license was reverted back to showing male because of Kobach's previous actions, and since then I have been anxious to put in a job application, show my ID at bars, or any time that identification is required, because there are no legal protections against discrimination based on my gender. All it would take is one wrong person in the situation for my life to be in danger. I already have to take so many measures to try and pass so that I don't stand out as a target for hate-based violence, and having identification that outs me puts everything at risk.

Kansas has a long history of taking care of our neighbors and looking out for each other, and this legislation would be targeting and making life harder for a small portion of Kansans that are just trying to go about our lives.

Thank you again 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.

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

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

Kansas House Bill 2426 defines gender as biological sex at birth. As a prior biology major at WSU, biological sex is not as simple as people would like to think. Infants may be born with anatomy that does not fit clearly into one of the 2 boxes we give for sex. We should allow that child and family to figure that out at their own pace. We should not have a doctor make an immediate decision then make that person and family deal with that for life with no opportunity for changing the gender. Also even if someone clearly fits a biological sex at birth, we should not regulate their gender based on that. These are 2 separate terms that have different meanings. I have several transgender friends that do not look like their assigned sex at birth. These are caring, wonderful people that add to our communities. You would not want these people in gendered bathrooms etc based on the sex assigned at birth as it would be uncomfortable and confusing for everyone. Changing their gender markers would cause confusion AND seriously endanger the lives of transgender Kansans. Changing markers away from their current gender will put transgender people at more risk of hate based violence for doing everyday activities that require showing their ID. I would like you to vote no to keep my friends safe and provide freedom of expression to Kansans. We shouldn't have to tell everyone what a doctor thought of our genitals when we were an infant, especially if it doesn't match who we are today.

This bill has the DMV invalidate and reissue driver's licenses to change gender identification and has the office of vital statistics invalidate and reissue birth certificates to change sex identification. This legislation will not ensure accurate gender identification on legal documents. As I stated the gender someone presents to the world may not match their assigned sex at birth. However this will cost Kansans time and money for both of these offices just to create more confusion and opportunity for violence. The time could be better used to perform the normal tasks of these offices in a timely manner. The money that would be spent on this could be used in a variety of better ways.

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

Megan Langford  
HB 2426 Opponent Written Only  
Private citizen  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you for considering my thoughts on HB 2426. My name is Megan Langford and I am a voter in Lenexa. I am writing today to ask the committee to vote NO on HB 2426.

This bill would put into law inaccurate definitions relating to gender that will be used to discriminate broadly and create unsafe environments for trans, intersex, and gender nonconforming people. Science simply does not agree with this bill's definitions. Further, being forced to use an ID that does not align with one's identity puts transgender folks at risk of discrimination and hate-based violence. The LGBTQ+ community already faces discrimination on a daily basis--let's not make their IDs another place for discrimination. As a cis woman, this bill is purportedly here to keep me safe. Well, guess what? I feel significantly less safe knowing that spaces that should be available to all women (both cis and trans), such as public restrooms, will now be spaces where potentially invasive "gender checks" could take place. Let's not go down this road.

Thank you for hearing my thoughts on this bill. Please, vote NO on the passage of HB 2426.

Martha Lawrence  
HB 2426 Opponent Written Only  
Boots on the Ground Midwest, Co-Founder  
1/13/2026

Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee, thank you for giving us time to share our thoughts on HB 2426 with you today. My name is Martha Lawrence with Boots on the Ground Midwest, and I am a voter in Shawnee, KS. I am writing today on behalf of our organization to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2426

Boots on the Ground Midwest is an organization that represents 7,700 people in Northeast Kansas. We believe HB 2426 does not address a real public safety concern; instead, it creates new and serious harms for transgender, intersex, and gender-diverse Kansans by inviting discrimination, exclusion and scrutiny in everyday life. Kansas has no comprehensive laws protecting transgender people from discrimination. In that context, HB 2426 significantly increases the risk of harm while offering no meaningful protections.

We are also troubled that this legislation is being treated as a priority at all. Kansans are facing real and urgent challenges—rising costs of living, access to affordable health care, underfunded schools, threats to rural hospitals, housing insecurity, and workforce shortages. Rather than addressing these pressing crises that affect families and communities across our state, HB 2426 targets a small and vulnerable group of people and diverts time and resources away from solutions that would actually improve Kansans' lives.

We believe this policy is disingenuous, unnecessary, and dangerous. It undermines personal liberty, public safety, and human dignity, and it puts already vulnerable Kansans at even greater risk. We urge lawmakers to reject HB 2426 and instead focus on policies that reflect our shared priorities: safety, fairness, and equal opportunity for all Kansans.

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