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Chair Humphries and Committee,

Written testimony for HB2426, in opposition

Could you just stop with the attacks on transgender people? In Kansas, we have some big problems to be addressed – housing shortages, expansion of Medicaid so people don't die for lack of basic healthcare, 1 out of 5 children who don't know where their next meal is coming from, a high suicide rate among people who don't have access to mental health services. Should I continue? These important issues deserve your time and attention as legislators responsible for spending our tax dollars wisely. Here you are spending an inordinate amount of time and money to target a few people in Kansas, perhaps 500, that would just like to live their life in peace. How would you like to be a group that someone else targeted with hatred? Always having to look out for your safety, being told they should just be eliminated? Perhaps you know that characterizing any person as “bad, different, not like me” is used as justification to kill them or make their life so miserable that they commit suicide? Would you want to live as a targeted person?

I am privileged to attend an open, affirming church where we try to love people and accept them for who they are. We are all a gift from God, made with different skills and abilities. I have met so many wonderful people who are lesbian, gay, queer, bisexual, trans over the years. Since I'm now in my 70s, I grew up in a time where people had to hide who they truly were. I must admit that when I initially was around people who were not “straight”, I felt a bit cautious. I now say that I am much safer with anyone who is just trying to be their real self than with any evangelical white male who I consider judgmental, angry and dangerous.

Then there is the medical problem of thinking people are just male or female. As a nurse, I have been in the delivery room to care for the newborn when we could not identify if that baby was male or female. I am not an expert, but read medical articles that confirm multiple variations of reproductive organs, genetic variations or hormone imbalances that have been identified. So does that make a person “bad”, deserving of your vile and vitriol? Something that was beyond their control?

I would encourage you to spend your time working FOR the people of Kansas, not creating unnecessary problems for them with these damaging, vile bills. I oppose HB2426 and any other bills that attack transgender people.

Thank you.  
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