

Opponent of SB 76  
For the Senate Education Committee Monday, February 10, 2025  
Jennifer Welch Buller  
Private Citizen

Chairman Erickson and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 76 with you today. My name is Jennifer Welch Buller, and I am a voter in Douglas County. I am also a mother of two beautiful children -- one in public high school and one at university here in Kansas. I am writing today to ask the committee to vote NO on SB 76.

I am very concerned that SB 76 infringes on my children's rights and their teachers' rights to privacy, self-determination, and free speech and expression. As the mother of a trans daughter, I am also confident this bill would harm my child, creating an unsafe and unwelcoming environment and adding undue burden and McCarthy-era fear of litigation for teachers and school staff. Even SB 76's exception for parental consent is too much a burden on families and puts children whose families are not ready to accept them at-risk. Children need to feel welcome and safe somewhere, and if not at home then school should be a safe haven.

All in all, this bill goes too far and is a clear example of governmental overreach and undue burden, opening the door to wastes of taxpayer money fighting potential lawsuits that are sure to come from all sides. I am also very confused why such a small percentage of people like my daughter are getting so much negative lawmaker time and attention in our state and nation. She just wants to exist, go to school and work, to walk about the world, doing no harm, but bills like these imply that she is not welcome.

SB 76 also gets in the way of teachers doing their job -- educating and creating a safe, compassionate place for children to learn and grow. Teachers cannot teach if they are constantly fearing litigation for calling children like my daughter by her chosen name and pronouns. And children cannot learn when they feel rejected and unwelcome in our society.

My family is my priority and near to that are our teachers and public educational institutions -- the foundation of a strong society. SB 76 puts an undue burden on both, and infringes on our first amendment rights. Please say no to SB 76 and say yes to my family's well-being and rights. Thank you for your time and service. Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions.

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