

**Opponent Testimony of SB 76**  
**For the Senate Education Committee**  
**February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Erin Keith-Chancy (private citizen)**

February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Senate Education Committee  
Kansas State Senate  
300 SW 10th Ave  
Topeka, KS 66612

Chair Erickson and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of Senate Bill 76 on behalf of myself (a parent, educator, registered nurse, and life-long Kansan),

I am writing to express my *strong* opposition to Senate Bill 76, which mandates that all public schools, colleges, and universities—and their representatives—use only the names and pronouns assigned at birth for transgender students. This bill raises serious concerns regarding student privacy, discrimination, and the ability of educational institutions to provide a safe and supportive learning environment.

First and foremost, enforcing this legislation would necessitate the collection and monitoring of deeply personal student information, which constitutes an invasion of privacy and runs counter to constitutional protections. The enforcement mechanism alone raises significant legal and ethical concerns, as it would require institutions to scrutinize and potentially disclose sensitive student records, violating their right to confidentiality and autonomy over their own identity.

Furthermore, the bill's requirement would create an exclusionary and hostile learning environment for transgender students. Research consistently shows that students perform better academically and socially when they feel supported and respected. Being misnamed or misgendered has well-documented negative effects on mental health, contributing to increased risks of anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation among transgender youth. Rather than fostering inclusivity, SB 76 would place an additional burden on these students, interfering with their ability to focus on learning and fully engage in their education.

This bill also places public schools, colleges, and universities in direct conflict with federal protections against discrimination under Title IX, which prohibits sex-based discrimination in federally funded educational programs. Many courts have ruled that this includes protections for transgender students, meaning that compliance with SB 76 could put Kansas schools at risk of legal challenges and loss of federal funding.

As educators, policymakers, and citizens, we have a shared responsibility to ensure that all students—regardless of gender identity—are treated with dignity and respect. Schools should be places of learning, personal growth, and opportunity, not arenas for government overreach into the private lives of students. Rather than pursuing legislation that marginalizes a vulnerable population, I urge you to focus on policies that foster inclusion, safety, and academic success for all Kansas students.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Senate Education Committee to oppose SB 76 and uphold the fundamental rights and dignity of every student in our state. Thank you for your time and consideration.

**References:**

Russell, S. T., Pollitt, A. M., Li, G., & Grossman, A. H. (2018). Chosen Name Use Is Linked to Reduced Depressive Symptoms, Suicidal Ideation, and Suicidal Behavior Among Transgender Youth. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 63(4), 503–505.

U.S. Department of Education. (2021). *Notice of Interpretation: Enforcement of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 with Respect to Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity*. Federal Register, 86(117), 32637–32640.

Sincerely,  
Erin Keith-Chancy DNP MS-NE RN  
Citizen of Kansas  
Lawrence KS