

Good morning Madam Chair and members of the committee.

My name is Cody Reynolds. I'm a lifelong Kansan, a graduate student currently pursuing my master's degree, and I've spent much of my professional life working with and mentoring young people as a college basketball coach. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

I want to share a perspective from my experience in higher education. I believe colleges and universities should be places where students are encouraged to think critically, ask questions, and have open conversations even when those conversations involve ideas they don't personally agree with.

In real life, people don't get to choose which opinions they encounter. Colleges should prepare students for that reality by teaching them how to listen, respond respectfully, and stand up for their beliefs through open dialogue rather than censorship. Those skills are essential not just on campus, but in the workplace, and in our communities.

As someone who cares deeply about education and civic life in Kansas, I appreciate the committee taking the time to consider how policies like this can help prepare students to be thoughtful, engaged citizens. Thank you again for your time and for the work you do on behalf of our state.