

**TO: Sen. Beverly Gossage, Chair**  
**Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare**  
**RE: SB 63 – Written Only Testimony - Opponent**  
**FR: Connie Brown Collins**  
**Voter Rights Network of Wyandotte County**  
**DT: Jan. 28, 2025**

Chairman Gossage and Members of the Committee:

I'd like to thank the committee for providing this opportunity to share my thoughts on SB 63. My name is Connie Brown Collins, Founder/Executive Director of Voter Rights Network of Wyandotte County. I live in Wyandotte County, Kansas City, Kansas. Our organization hosts regular informational and educational meetings and events on voting and human rights and other pertinent issues in collaboration with numerous participating organizations and committed individuals, both from Wyandotte and Johnson Counties.

I strongly oppose SB 63 that would ban Kansans under 18 years old from access to medically necessary health care for gender transitioning by:

- Restricting the use of state funds, including Medicaid, to promote gender transitioning, medically necessary healthcare and prescriptions,
- Prohibiting healthcare providers from providing gender transition for those whose gender identity is inconsistent with the child's sex,
- Authorizing a civil cause of action against healthcare providers for providing such treatments,
- Requiring professional discipline against a healthcare provider who performs such treatment,
- Prohibiting professional liability insurance from covering damages for healthcare providers that provide gender transition treatment to children, and
- Adding any violation of the act to the definition of unprofessional conduct for physicians.

### **Privacy Concerns**

This country was built on freedoms – of speech, assembly, religion, and petition. These same freedoms to make their own private medical decisions should be extended to patients seeking care and their parents and families, in collaboration with their doctors – and not include politicians. Would politicians be involved in decisions about male hormone therapy or surgery for erectile dysfunction? Physicians and other health professionals are trusted messengers that patients rely upon to provide the best information and direction regarding health care outcomes and choices. This bill seeks to destroy and remove the people most likely to provide accurate information. Gender-affirming care has always been individualized to meet the needs of each patient, managed through a careful and evidence-based model of assessment and informed consent — which is already required by law.

### **Previous Attempts**

Last year, this bill failed because of its extremely broad scope beyond the healthcare arena. The bill does not define what it means to “promote,” “provide,” or “advocate” for social transition or gender affirming medical care. These terms, which are open to interpretation, could therefore eliminate services provided by school counselors, teachers, daycare providers, and raise constitutional concerns about these individuals’ First Amendment, free speech rights. The language of the bill clearly discriminates against transgender Kansans and could prevent trans kids from receiving holistic care and needed support – assistance every Kansas kid should be able to freely access.

### **Medical Necessity for All**

**Gender-affirming care saves lives.** Medical care for gender dysphoria is evidence-based, medically necessary, and safe—which is why every major medical association advocates against bills like this. The medical treatments prohibited under this bill treat various conditions in non-transgender young people, but this bill **only** bans them for trans youth. It undermines the drug formulary process for medication access and seeks to criminalize the caretaker, health professionals and the families of patients.

In conclusion, I urge you to vote against SB 63 in order to ensure that young trans Kansans receive the medically necessary gender affirming care they need and deserve. Thank you again for providing this opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

*Connie Brown Collins*

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Voter Rights Network of Wyandotte County