

## Oral Opposition to SB 63

Hello, my name is Jaimie McReynolds. I am proud to say I was born in Kansas City, raised in Lawrence, and currently live in Lenexa with my husband and children. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today in opposition to SB 63.

I could stand up here all day and all night and make an argument that trans people deserve the same rights as every other human being. I could tell you that they're actually just regular people in pursuit of their best life - in pursuit of happiness - just like the rest of us. That recognizing them and embracing them and enjoying them is a far more joyful way to live than ostracizing them. History should have taught us by now that stripping rights from vulnerable groups of people has never been the right thing to do. However, I know that a made up mind is very difficult, if not impossible, to change. Maybe you think that being trans is a sin. Maybe you think that facilitating transition in a child is abuse. Maybe you think that trans people are dangerous because they sneak into the wrong bathrooms and jeopardize the integrity of the oh-so-valued sporting industry. That's ok, I am not going to try to change your mind.

I will, however, implore you to open your mind enough to look at this bill with a critical eye. I am going to ask you not to blindly pass this bill because it seems to be in line with your agenda. I want you to think about what this bill *really means*.

Let's call into question some of the logistics of this bill. Since it does address social transition, including "manner of dress," can I send my daughter, who's going through a tom-boy phase, to school in her big brother's hand-me-downs? Where do we draw these lines regarding clothing and who decides which clothing is appropriate for which gender?

This bill also allows the government into the privacy of our medical care. Bodily autonomy being a basic human right, this should concern all of us. If you think the end-game here involves taking away rights from a few small groups, and then the nonsense will stop, think again. As a nurse, this invasion of privacy and attack on bodily autonomy is frightening. The relationship between a patient and medical professional and the decisions that are made therein are sacred, and they should be free from government interference. Putting medical professionals at risk of serious liability for providing what they deem to be appropriate, quality care is, at best, a very slippery slope.

Please remember that passing this bill will not make trans people go away. Trans people have existed for as long as humans have existed, and there's no reason to think that they are going away now - whether the government recognizes them or not. As my girl Leigh McGowan pointed out, denying trans people's existence is like denying that the color yellow exists... maybe color theory is over your head, and you can only wrap your head around the primary colors. But it does not mean that yellow does not exist. Passing this bill would only further marginalize an already at-risk group of people. And even if you don't care about that, even if you think that trans people should continue to suffer from hate crimes and higher suicide rates and having their medical care stripped away, you should recognize the dangerous implications of this bill as it relates to you and your family.

As a mother and a tax payer, I am deeply disappointed that we are spending money, time, and energy on this bill instead of addressing actual, imminent threats to the well-being of our children: gun violence, lack of funding for public education, social media, lack of access to healthcare, climate change, inadequate wages for working class families.

So let's make it known that we see how dangerous it is to let the government get involved with our medical care, tell our children how they are allowed to dress, chip away at small groups of people's civil liberties until we all personally feel the effects of these losses. This bill must be stopped because Kansans - not just trans Kansans, but all Kansans - deserve better. Let's recognize this bill for the flagrant attack on our rights and the giant distraction from pressing issues that demand our attention. Kansans are relying on you to bring legislation that will protect our civil liberties and better our lives.

Thank you for your time and attention today. I do not take for granted this opportunity to have my voice heard, and to live in a country where the government represents the will of its constituents.