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BRANDON WOODARD
108TH DISTRICT

Opposition Testimony
Senate Committee on Education
House Bill 2238
February 13, 2023

Chairperson Thomas, Vice-Chair Estes, Ranking Member Stogsdill, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **testimony in opposition to HB 2238**: "Creating the fairness in women's sports act to require that female student athletic teams only include members who are biologically female."

Well, welcome to hate week in the Legislature. This legislation is just one more bill in a series of attacks on our trans neighbors. In recent years, we have seen attempts to ban trans individuals from the military, regulate their bathroom usage, refuse business in the name of so-called "religious freedom," and now exclude them from the sports field. ***Let us be clear; this bill is not about sports; it is about attacking young transgender Kansans.***

Beyond the moral reasons to oppose this bill, this legislation is dangerous, puts a target on the backs of already-vulnerable students, and will negatively impact the image of Kansas throughout the country. HB 2238 would open our state to endless litigation and risks out-of-state teams refusing to play our Kansas athletes.

Many of you in this building often wonder why young people leave our state in record numbers. ***It is because of backward policies, like this bill, that my generation has left and never looks back.***

I urge the committee to choose an inclusive and welcoming Kansas for all, not just those you deem acceptable. **I ask you to vote NO on HB 2238** and will stand for questions at the appropriate time. Thank you for your time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandon Woodard".

Rep. Brandon Woodard