

Senate Education Committee
March 15, 2023
RE: Proponent Written Testimony for SB 255

Madam Chairwoman Baumgardner and Senate Education Committee,

Thank you for hearing about this important issue of safety for our public school students. I support SB 255. I urge your support to provide separate accommodations for students of each biological sex on overnight school sponsored trips. It is a simple, common sense.

This issue has actually occurred (<https://heartlandernews.com/2022/05/17/eudora-girl-forced-to-share-a-bed-with-biological-male-on-school-sponsored-overseas-trip/>). It's unbelievable that on a school trip to Costa Rica in 5/2022, three female high school students in the Kansas Eudora school district were assigned to a two-bed hotel room with a transgender student who is biologically male — meaning one of them would have had to share a bed with the trans student — and school officials refused a request for a room change.

The girl objected and told a chaperone she didn't feel comfortable with the arrangement, but she was told to "deal with it." The girl was devastated, calling her mother in tears and refusing to sleep in the bed, instead sleeping on the floor and in other friends' rooms.

This is an absurd situation that should never have occurred; obviously causing emotional harm to the student and potentially causing physical harm due to an untenable situation placed on the student by the school.

This situation should not have occurred and must not be allowed to happen again.

I urge you to pass this bill out of committee favorably.

Sincerely,
John Ims
Lawrence, KS
District 45