

Senate Education Committee

March 14, 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 and urge your support. As a mother of two daughters who attend Olathe Public Schools, their safety is of the utmost importance for our family. I believe public schools should be a safe place for ALL students, and there are ways to accommodate ALL children so they can be successful in their education and extracurricular activities.

It is unfair to make one child feel uncomfortable on a school trip, especially in a hotel room where their privacy should be taken into consideration. Just like restrooms, public schools can offer accommodations, but all students should have amenities based on their biological sex.

In most cases, I support local control first, but what we have seen over the past few years in Kansas is public schools have made education about political ideology and not academic success. It is time for us to unify and make sure all Kansas kids are safe when in school, on school trips and on the athletic field. I think this bill is a great addition to the Fairness in Women's Sports bill and kindly ask for you to pass this bill out of committee favorably.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Gilmore  
Senate District #37