

Kansas Senate Committee on Education  
Senator Molly Baumgardner, Chair  
Proponent Testimony – SB 255  
March 18, 2023

“ AN ACT concerning school districts; relating to school sponsored travel and activities; requiring separate overnight accommodations for students of each biological sex.”

Esteemed members of the Kansas Senate Committee on Education,

While the predominant protection provided in this bill should seem to be an unnecessary, common sense standard practice, society seemingly seeks to blur these self-evident lines of biological gender, and in so doing has created a need for such clarification and protection for our youth. The success of Title IX in providing equality of opportunity for the two sexes, for all intents and purposes settled the issue of gender equality, but is now being threatened by dangerous and perverted gender ideology where a child may assume to belong to the opposite gender than their DNA has predetermined. In an effort to curtail “bullying” of such students we now offer greater recognition for the sensibilities of youth with serious emotional or mental disturbance when it comes to accommodations for bathroom, locker room, and other vulnerable spaces. We do this to the detriment of the moral and physical well-being of ALL children.

While proposed changes to federal Title IX protections have not been fully realized, and I pray they never are, here in Kansas we need to set right the legal confusion that has been allowed to manifest within public education regarding accommodations for minor students in our care. I am a mother of 4, one daughter and three sons. I am also a previous HS Coach and educator. It is absolutely imperative that legislation provide clear direction for the folks in public education that we have deemed to be responsible for the proper education of our students.

All activities offered by a school district are to support the academic development of the participating student. It is currently standard practice to assign overnight sleeping accommodations based on the separation of gender, male and female. If special accommodations should be requested of the school, it should be at the request of a parent who wishes for their child to deviate from this standard practice. The onus for finding special accommodation should not fall on students who rightfully do not feel comfortable being made to sleep and share dressing, showering, and toileting space with someone of the opposite gender.

Simply put, we can allow for a student’s requested special needs without compromising the physical, emotional, or mental well-being of other students. We must protect our youth’s physical safety as well as moral integrity in all

circumstances. This bill goes a long way to provide that in publicly funded and regulated schools where students spend a majority of their time.

Thank you for your attention to this valuable and necessary bill.

Tiffany Ellison  
Senate District #37