

**February 13, 2023; 1:30 pm**  
House Committee on Education  
Rep. Adam Thomas, Chair

Erin Brown  
Parent

**HB2238** – Creating the "fairness in women's sports" act to require that female student athletic teams only include members who are biologically female.

**Opponent, Written Only**

Chair Thomas and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on HB2238.

My name is Erin Brown, and my son is a trans boy. My son is the most important person in the world to me, as I believe every parent feels about their child. The purpose of my testimony is to explain how hard it is to watch your child suffer from discrimination, the micro- and macro-aggressions our kids feel each day

According to The Trevor Project, 82% of trans kids consider or attempt suicide. My son is one of these kids. There is nothing in the world quite like hearing your child's therapist tell you that your child wants to end their life. My son was 13 when this happened, and through direct medical intervention, we were able to help him through his crisis. I still worry every day, though, about him relapsing.

He has told me that he wishes he were cisgender, because that would be easier for him. Every time he is misgendered and deadnamed, it hurts him. He is miserable in his body because it doesn't match his gender. He is strong, and he has friends who support him, but this fight is too much for a 15-year-old child.

Trans kids face bullying every day, not just from other children, but from adults. This bill is part of that bullying - there is no real science to back it up, just hate. Children deserve better. The 82% deserve to be loved.

In addition, this law would subject all children, cis and trans, to invasive examinations that none of them should have to endure. Would you want your daughter to have her genitalia examined to determine if she were eligible to play on her team? Considering there have been cases where having a vagina wasn't "good enough," such as AFAB athlete Caster Semenya, where does this end?

Please, consider the age of our children, the invasiveness of this law, and the bullying our trans youth face. All children deserve to grow up healthy and happy. This just adds more ammunition against the most vulnerable children in our society. These children just want to play.

Thank you for your consideration.