

SB180 – Opponent – Written Testimony
Larry (“Lara”) Crow

Committee Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to provide testimony in relation to SB180 (the “Bill.”) My legal name is Larry Crow. However, after discoveries I will discuss more fully below, I go by Lara. I am a Kansas resident living in District 34 represented by Senator Mark Steffen. Additionally, I am a licensed Kansas attorney who has been in practice for nearly 14 years and also a small business owner. I write to strongly oppose SB180, but not from the direction or for the reasons you may expect.

Between 2020 and 2022, I discovered that I was born intersex. I never expected I would be testifying before such an esteemed body about my genitalia (or how they operate), but sadly this Bill requires me to do just that since it tries to categorize Kansans into two groups based upon “biological sex.”

I was assigned male at birth. However, I entered my first puberty when I was nine years old. Oddly, I did not show the normal symptoms of a male puberty. Instead, I showed various signs of female puberty including a heavying of the breast area, evidence of monthly hormonal fluctuations, a widening of my hips, and a slight increase in height. It was not until I turned 14 that I had any signs of male puberty including a widening of my shoulders, muscle development, and other transformations, the specific details of which I shall spare this Committee. I should have become suspicious of these strange bodily developments, but what did I know? I was told I was a boy.

In 2020, due to some further growth in my breast area, the doctors discovered numerous other details, including that my hormone profile was that of a teenage girl. So, yet again, I had unknowingly entered a *third* puberty.

After a deeper dive, we discovered that I have multiple intersex conditions. Specifically, I have partial androgen insensitivity disorder, which allowed my body to produce and use testosterone for a short period in my life. Afterward, my body stopped absorbing and using testosterone. Today, my testosterone levels are lower than an average woman. Currently, my female sex hormones are closer to that of a pregnant woman—the highest estrogen levels present in an average woman’s life. Additionally, I was born with both sets of reproductive organs (male testes and a uterus). Under the guise of a hernia surgery when I was a child, my uterus was removed, and the façade was safe until 2020.

It was also in 2020 that I discovered that, like most intersex people, I had always been infertile. My body literally was not designed to be able to impregnate or be impregnated. However, hormonally and physically, my body has feminized rapidly of its own accord to the point that rarely people recognize me as male any longer.

I will spare this Committee all the additional life details and a description of the genitalia I possess at this time, but I will say that, if this Bill passes, I will fit neither the definition of “male” nor “female” as proposed in this Bill. This is because my “biological reproductive system” is not developed to either “fertilize an ova” or “to produce ova.”

While current statistics cite intersex individuals as a small percentage of the population, it is actually unknown how many of us exist because, until very recently, intersex individuals were sometimes altered at birth to conform to a particular sexual norm without even their parents’ knowledge. In other cases, like

mine, parents had surgeries and alterations done without their child's knowledge at an early age. The variety of physical sexual expressions that can exist in an individual (there are multiple different ways an individual can qualify as intersex) may also never fully express, or an individual can only find out later in life, as I did, that their sexual designation is inaccurate to the sex they were assigned at birth. Therefore, that "M" or "F" initially stamped on an individual's birth certificate can be inaccurate for as many as thousands or tens of thousands of Kansans, and they may not find out until puberty or later that this is the case, if they even find out at all. It would be inhumane to require a person whose body is already transforming in baffling ways to walk through life imprisoned by an inaccurate stamp on a single document.

Consequently, I humbly request that this Committee oppose the Bill as it would essentially write me and my fellow intersex Kansans out of various legal protections.

Sincerely,

Lara Crow