

Opponent Testimony of HB2238
For the Senate Education Committee
March 6, 2023
Adam Kellogg
KU Student, Kansas Resident

Chair Baumgardner and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent written testimony on House Bill 2238.

My name is Adam Kellogg, and I am a student at KU studying psychology. I am also a transgender Kansan. My trans siblings are under unnecessary attack and I want to make it clear that their joy and their ability to play sports is worth preserving. I am vehemently against HB 2238 and all of its consequences, intentional or not.

Transgender athletes have not caused a problem in Kansas and continue to not cause problems. Instead, this legislation is a "foot-in-the-door" assault on transgender rights with no basis in reality, crafted solely to accustom your constituents to further violations on transgender people's lives and bodies. Perhaps this consequence was not visible to you, committee members, because the larger rhetoric on trans people has been so tricky, but I beg you to look past the arguing and the quack science that anti-trans activists push on you. We are simply citizens who want to live and thrive, just like you.

This legislation, furthermore, is a violation of Title IX and opens the door for sexual assault on cisgender kids. I urge you to pay attention to the fact that children will have to undergo genital examinations just to play the sports that they love. What kind of solution is this, especially to a nonexistent problem?

My friends that played sports in high school hurt no one and took nothing from young, aspiring athletes in their respective sports. They played fair games and performed to the best of their ability. Backing them into a corner only increases the feeling of alienation that transgender youth already feel.

I really do appreciate your concern for young people in sports, and I know what you want is for them to have the fairest game possible. This bill is the opposite of an answer to that concern. Instead, all you've done is target young trans people and force sexual harassment on kids. I recommend that instead, we educate each other about the realities of trans athletes in sports.

I urge you to stand with me in opposition to this anti-trans legislation and vote down HB 2238. Thank you very much for listening to the many trans youth in your state.