

Opponent Testimony of HB2238
For the Senate Education Committee
March 6, 2023
Kenna McNally
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 Kenna McNally. I was born and raised in Lawrence, Kansas. I am currently a freshman at the University of Kansas where I am double majoring in Strategic Communications with a minor in Public Policy and Business. As a lifelong Kansan, I am proud to live in my state but this pride diminishes every time this legislature writes into law, or attempts to write into law, a bill that takes away the rights of my fellow citizens by denying them the right to exist as their authentic selves. I am testifying today in opposition to HB 2238 - the "Fairness in Women's Sports" act.

My upbringing was defined by my involvement in sports and activities – both in school and in my community. As a dancer, my teammates and I were more worried about our upcoming performances than the genitals between the legs of the dancer next to us. As a member of the student government, my classmates and I were more worried about recording the daily announcements than the genitals between the legs of the classmate next to us. As the Editor-in-Chief of the yearbook, I was more worried about meeting deadlines than the genitals between the legs of my staffer next to me. So why are you, as legislators, so concerned about the genitals between the legs of Kansas students and student-athletes?

Students and student-athletes are not threatened by transgender students and student-athletes. Students and student-athletes are not being groomed by transgender students and student-athletes. We are all just trying to live, live happily, and live as we truly are.

Our gender identity compared to our gender assignment at birth should not be the determinant in whether we are allowed to fully participate in sports and activities. Singling out a population of young Kansans and telling them that they don't deserve to have the experiences that all other Kansans get to have just because they were born into the wrong body is wrong. High school is tough enough without the majority of the Kansas Legislature telling you that you shouldn't exist.

This is why I urge you to vote in opposition to HB 2238. Protect young Kansans. Allow us to thrive, allow us to discover what makes us happy, allow us to truly experience life. Don't let party politics and ultra-conservatism keep you from doing what is right – protecting young Kansans and making Kansas a place young people want to live.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.