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Testimony in opposition to SB 180

My name is Rev. Joanna Harader and I serve as pastor of Peace Mennonite Church in Lawrence, KS. I am submitting this testimony in opposition to SB 180, which seeks to establish rigid and harmful definitions of gender.

As a pastor, I resist the state's attempt to limit God's creation of a diverse humanity to the proposed definitions of "man" and "woman." Each individual's body is fearfully and wonderfully made, with broad variations in: the presence and functionality of body parts, including reproductive organs and genitalia; hormone levels; physical size; emotional responses; internal desires; and understandings of identity. To reduce this diversity to two artificially constructed categories is deeply harmful to people of all genders.

This bill is labeled the "women's bill of rights," but there is no aspect of the bill which would actually enhance my rights as a woman. The legal erasure of transgender and non-binary people will not further my rights, but merely take away rights from people that I love and countless others across the state. For those in the legislature who are sincerely concerned with women's rights, I urge you to pass legislation that will foster justice and equity among people of all genders, races, and life situations.

Please do not support SB 180. It will not protect the rights of Kansas women, but will be a force for the oppression of many.

Thank you for your time today.

Sincerely,
Rev. Joanna Harader