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**SUSAN RUIZ**  
23RD DISTRICT

### Opponent Testimony

Monday, February 13, 2023

HB 2238 - AN ACT concerning education; relating to student athletes; creating the fairness in women's sports act; restricting participation on women's teams to female students; providing a cause of action for violations of the act.

Presented to the House Committee on Education by Representative Susan Ruiz Chairman Thomas, Vice Chair Estes, Ranking Minority Member Stogsdill and members of the House Committee on Education.

I am once again rising to oppose HB 2238. In 2021, legislatures across the country allowed themselves to be influenced by an organization called "The Alliance Defending Freedom." Their existence is to attack and eradicate children and adults who are transgender. Just today I received an email from a local group called "The American Family Association." These two groups and unfortunately others have followed their lead and legislative tactics. These hate groups found traction in using girls and women in sports as a way to influence legislators to pass laws banning transgender girls from competing in sports with cisgender girls and women. They convince legislators that they are "protecting" or "supporting" girls and women from the embarrassment of losing to a transgender girl or woman. They never mention data to prove the contrary. At one point this group even proposed the need to "require transgender people to undergo sterilization before legally changing their gender."

These types of groups do one thing very well and that is raising money. These organizations have no problem sacrificing transgender children for their own financial gain.

We are all aware that the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHAA) have rules and regulations that helps the board make recommendations regarding giving the transgender student permission to compete in sports. This process has been in place for years and nobody cared until it was made an issue by the above extremist groups and it spread like wildfire across the country. It is also interesting to look at their websites. There is no mention to the need for parody in women's sports, so that girls and women can go on to engage in professional sports.

There have been one too many transgender kids who have taken their own lives due to the lack of support in their community. Sometimes, it isn't enough to have your family and/or home church support. Kids like to think they will be safe and supported in school. We as legislators should honor and support them.

Don't fall for the rhetoric pushed by anti-transgender extremist groups. If you really want to support girls and women in sports, vote "NO" to HB 2238.

Rep. Susan Ruiz, District #23