

Name: Iridescent Riffel, Private Citizen from Lawrence KS.

## House Bill 2238

- HB 2238 is bullying.
  - This is repeated behavior of bullying. This is the FOURTH attempt at this bill
  - The effects this will have on K-12 trans kids is monumental
    - Target bullying by adults onto a few trans kids.
    - It sends the message not only to other adults but to kids that its okay to bully and target trans kids- specifically trans kids who play sports. It creates an environment where trans kids identities are up for debate and leaves trans kids feeling invalidated and targeted.
- I've been met with disgust for simply existing. I say this very literally- My life has been threatened, I've been threatened with swatting,doxing, stalked, and harrassed for being myself.
  - I just want to be myself-that's all trans kids want too.
  - These bills push rhetoric that its okay to bully and to target. Life is hard enough for trans youth- we shouldn't be adding to it. Being a kid is a time to explore who you are, to have fun, and to just be yourself. Bc when you grow up that targeting/bullying doesn't stop. I've lived this.
- Rep. Bob Lewis' mischaracterization of the 2021 study titled "Transgender Women in Female Category of Sport Perspectives on Testosterone Suppression and Performance Advantages. The study can be found here:  
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33289906/>
  - Rep Lewis' cleverly left out the conclusion of this study which reads
    - "Regardless of what the future will bring in terms of revised transgender policies, it is clear that different sports differ vastly in terms of physiological determinants of success, which may create safety considerations and may alter the importance of retained performance advantages. THus, we argue against universal guidelines for transgender athletes in sport and instead propose that each individual sport federation evaluate their own conditions for inclusivity, fairness, and safety."
      - Those organizations already exist. KSHAA states there are currently 11 trans kids playing sports.
      - Have they ever received a complaint? No.
    - There are countless studies that argue against why bills like this and other anti-transgender bills are harmful for trans kids. They've been shared countless times in this chamber.
    - But if we want to say we are using peer-reviewed studies and bring that into debate- then we ought to not mischaracterize the study.

- Trans kids want to cherish, love, flourish, and surround themselves with people who accept love and cherish them too. A team can be this place and trans kids shouldn't have that opportunity ripped away from them.
- Please open your hearts and your minds. Our voices have the power to lift people up or to maim. Will you hold someone's hand in support or will you rip a hole through their heart?