

Opponent Testimony of HB2238
For the Senate Education Committee
March 6, 2023
Colleen Cunningham
Parent

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

My name is Colleen Cunningham. I am the parent of 3 young kids—2 in elementary, and 1 in middle school—and I am writing today in strong opposition to HB2238.

Our oldest started middle school this year, and as is the case for a lot of families, we had some anxiety about transitioning from elementary to middle school, as well as going from virtual school to school in-person in our neighborhood. Our oldest has struggled with social anxiety since early elementary school, which compounded our nervousness, but 7 months in, I'm happy to report that she is thriving. A large part of her success is that she has found peers who share her interests, and is able to participate in activities with those peers.

The evidence shows that allowing trans girls to participate in girls' sports does not harm anyone. Banning girls from participating in girls' sports, on the other hand, does lead to decreases in sports participation generally and leads to gender policing, which also affects cisgender girls who are expected to demonstrate sufficient femininity.

History and science both show us that there is no competitive advantage held by trans girls. Trans athletes have been playing a variety of sports, across levels, for years and we have not seen any widespread domination by trans girls or women. Yet policies like HB2238 are popping up across the country. One cannot help but wonder why politicians are bullying trans children through such legislation.

The bottom line is that trans kids deserve the same chance to participate fully in their schools and communities that cisgender kids are provided with.

For these reasons, I am asking that you vote in opposition to HB2238.