

Testimony of Aubrey Richardson
Before the Senate Committee on Education
In Support of SB 114
Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Good afternoon and thank you for allowing me to be here. My name is Aubree Richardson and I'm from Sharon Springs, Kansas. I have been homeschooled in Wallace County my entire life. Last school year, my senior year, I got the privilege to play sports, in my own hometown for Wallace County High School USD 241, thanks to Senate Bill 113. I was so excited because for the first time I would finally get to play sports with friends I have known my entire life. My team had a lot of success. We placed third in both volleyball and basketball at the class 1A Division II State Tournaments. I also had the opportunity to compete, along with many of my other teammates, at the State Track and Field meet in Wichita, Kansas, making the podium in High Jump. I was honored to be chosen for various awards from our league and also from the Kansas State High School Activities Association receiving All-State awards in two sports. I was honored to share the title of "Most Inspirational Player" in volleyball with another teammate, an honor given to me by my teammates.

However, when our annual Senior Night came, the school refused to let me participate. I was not allowed to walk across the very floor I had just finished playing on, with the other Seniors, many of whom were my teammates. Though many of my teammates went to bat for me, asking the school to allow me to participate, the school had no interest in recognizing me in front of the community I was representing in uniform.

When the Activities Banquet came in the spring, my coaches notified the school administration that we (myself and the other homeschooled athletes) had lettered in our appropriate sports. However, the administration made the decision not to allow homeschoolers the opportunity to letter in any sport, though they did not communicate that decision to us at the time. We learned of this at the banquet when we were not mentioned and not allowed to be in the pictures for these awards.

This resolution will protect non-public students, who have a legal right to participate in these activities, from discrimination. I kindly ask for your support of this resolution to ensure that all students in the district can safely participate, without fear of unnecessary exclusion and discrimination. Thank you for your time.