

Oral Testimony in Opposition to HB 2071 Anthony Alvarez
Resident of Kansas City, Kansas
For the House Health and Human Services Committee
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Testimony in Opposition to HB 2071

Chair, Members of the Health and Human Services Committee

Thank you for your time today. My name is Anthony Alvarez. I am twenty years old, a proud Kansan of 11 years, a resident of Kansas City, a member of Senate District 4, an honors student at KU, and a transgender man. I am speaking in opposition to this bill.

Since the onset of puberty, I suffered from severe depression, anxiety, and anger issues. While I received mental healthcare to address these emotions, my parents, healthcare providers, and myself were at a loss of what could be causing them.

I came out and began socially transitioning at 15, being supported by family, friends, and healthcare providers until I was able to medically transition a year later. Almost immediately after starting my transition, everyone around me and I began noticing positive changes. I was more confident, consistently happier, and overall seemed more present. My mom says that when I began to be recognized as a young man for the first time, it was like the first time she saw me.

My transition was supported by my teachers and administrators while in school. They allowed me the dignity of being treated and referred to as any other young man in their building. This opportunity was immeasurably important to me, including extra circulars I spent around 50 hours a week there. I cannot imagine how it would have felt to have the place where I spent the majority of my time be hostile to me.

Looking back now at my decision to transition and my time in school, I recognize how lifesaving the medical care I received was. Being able to start transitioning as a minor allowed me to begin my life as soon as possible. My parents and I were repeatedly informed of the effects of the medication I was taking. At no point was I unsure or uninformed. Every question or doubt raised

by my parents was answered. I feel extraordinarily fortunate to have received that level of care. It pains me to imagine that other young Kansans could one day not have this care available.

Receiving Gender Affirming Care as a minor and having the support of my school were lifesaving interventions that allowed me to begin my adult life. I love Kansas, and I am incredibly grateful to have received this care in this wonderful state. It is painful to think that the Kansas legislature wants to take that away from young transgender Kansans.

I urge the members of this committee to think about the young transgender Kansans in your care when you vote on this bill. I urge you to vote against it.