

HB 2071 Opposition Testimony (Written/Oral)
House Committee on Health and Human Services

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Chair Carpenter & members of the committee,

First, thank you for working for Kansas voters here in Topeka and for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 2071. I am here today to speak in opposition to the proposed legislation that wants to ban gender-affirming care for minors in Kansas. As a transgender with nine years of experience in the classroom, I can tell you this legislation is more harmful than good.

I'm a math teacher with the privilege of working with students of all backgrounds, experiences, and identities. Today, I stand in opposition to House Bill 2071 because it fundamentally violates the rights of children and their families. Every student, no matter their age, should have the autonomy to decide what is best for their bodies.

As a transgender individual, I know firsthand how critical it is to have the ability to make informed decisions about one's own identity, and I believe that right belongs to every young person—especially those who are most vulnerable. The choice to affirm one's gender should not be dictated by the government but by the person living in that body and their family. No one knows a child better than those who love and care for them.

Children are entitled to respect, compassion, and support as they navigate their journeys. By imposing restrictions on gender-affirming care, we are not only infringing upon their freedoms, but we are also sending a harmful message that their identities do not matter. Every person deserves the dignity to express themselves fully, and no law should stand in the way.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Gabriel A. Padilla

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