

Aaron Lathrop
Private citizen
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1/25/0025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts on SB 63 / HB 2071. My name is Aaron Lathrop and I am a voter in Johnson County. I am encouraging you to vote no on SB 63 / HB 2071.

I believe you should vote no on SB 63 / HB 2071 because this is a personal decision involving a private citizen as an individual or family. This is not something that should be decided behind closed doors at the legislative level based on your (policy-makers) beliefs, but the beliefs of those involved. And many times, the beliefs of the policy makers is based on writings they are playing up to vs what the teachings of those writings are. At the end of the day, this is not a political topic and needs to fall under "live and let live" regardless of beliefs or social standing.

Thank you again for letting me give my thoughts and I hope you look inward and vote no on SB 63 / HB 2071

Adalyn Calvin
PRIVATE CITIZEN
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1/28/0025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 63 / HB 2071 with you today. My Name is Adalyn Calvin and I am a voter in Saline County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SB 63 / HB 2071

The passing of this bill would cause a large amount of strife, danger, and money lost across Kansas. This bill broadly applies to many different aspects that would cause problems for people who that bill does not intend to target. The wide effects of this bill must be considered on how it will impact all Kansans.

I appreciate your time and consideration and once again encourage you to vote no on the passage of SB 63 / HB 2071

January 28th, 2025

Adam Kellogg - Opposition Testimony to HB 2071

Good afternoon, members of the committee. My name is Adam Kellogg, and it brings me no joy to be in front of you today as it did last year. Last year, I was thrilled to share my experiences as a transgender man with all of you and to be surrounded by my friends and community. Last year, I chose my words carefully and tried to show the committee the hope and joy I had for young transgender people in Kansas. Last year, I watched my good friend Anthony speak about his experience and silently cheered him on from the sidelines.

Also last year, a member of my community was thrown out of the meeting for accidentally dropping a water bottle — I hope this year will not come with the same sweeping disdain. Last year, I heard the judgmental whispers and the disinterest of this committee while our allies tried to preserve our spirit. Last year, I saw the same healthcare that breathed life into me narrowly avoid destruction by the legislature. I saw legislators that claim to support their constituents stab so many of them in the back. I saw lies and fear being tossed like candy regarding upstanding medical professionals. I saw some of you in the room at this committee hearing, and a few of you I am very happy to see again. Others, I look at you and I can only pray that you see me in front of you.

In last year's hearing, one committee member likened the scars that I am so proud of on my chest to those of a lobotomy. Some committee members nodded along. I will never forget the feeling of my heart dropping to my shoes, realizing that this fearful and uneducated analogy was likely a prevailing narrative in anti-trans rhetoric. That infantilization of me and my choices cannot stand.

To be frank, the disrespect I and my transgender siblings have experienced within the capitol's walls is disgusting. I will not tolerate this disrespect. I will not be convinced that my body or my medical care is gross or undesirable. My body is a reflection of my soul — my soul is not independent of this corporeal form during my time here on Earth. My body, assisted by the careful and cautious eyes of my medical and mental health teams, now shows the masculine frame that matches my soul. I knew of my desire to be a man as a preteen, and just as any other boy goes through puberty to become that man, so too did I. What a gift I get to share with you all now — the elegance and strength that I possess thanks to modern medicine. The young man I was before surgery and hormones was just as worthy of discussing this vision of himself. These are gifts that I want to ensure transgender youth have access to, but this bill would force them to hide and penalize their providers for even trying to speak of social transition. That is nothing but disrespect. Strike down HB 2071 and help me bestow the gift of consideration and autonomy to young people that some seem so desperately hellbent on snatching away.

Aleksandra Nokes

Written-only OPPOSITION TESTIMONY

HB 2071

Members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

I am a Johnson County resident and a member of the Board of Directors of Gardner KS Pride. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed bill, HB 2071 that seeks to ban gender-affirming healthcare for transgender minors in Kansas. This legislation represents a harmful and dangerous overreach into private healthcare decisions, the rights of families, and the well-being of vulnerable youth.

First, this bill would effectively ban all gender-affirming medical care for transgender minors, including puberty blockers and hormone replacement therapy (HRT). These treatments are evidence-based, widely supported by leading medical organizations, and often life-saving for transgender youth. Denying access to this care is not only medically unjustified but also cruel, as it puts young lives at significant risk for mental health crises and suicide. Furthermore, banning the use of state funds, including Medicaid, for such care discriminates against low-income families who already face barriers to healthcare access.

Second, the provision barring state agencies, facilities, or employees from affirming transgender youth is deeply troubling. It prevents educators, counselors, and other trusted adults from supporting transgender minors, stripping these young people of the guidance and affirmation they often need to thrive.

Finally, threatening healthcare providers with liability lawsuits and licensure implications for offering gender-affirming care is a dangerous precedent. This provision not only jeopardizes the ability of professionals to provide medically appropriate care but also creates an environment of fear and hostility for those committed to serving their patients.

I urge you to consider the devastating impacts this legislation would have on transgender youth, their families, and the broader medical community. Transgender youth deserve the same access to compassionate, evidence-based care as any other child. Kansas should be a state that supports its youth, not one that legislates against their well-being.

I respectfully ask you to vote against this harmful bill, HB 2071, and instead focus on policies that protect and uplift all Kansas residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Aleksandra Nokes

Alexandra Battey
PRIVATE CITIZEN
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1/26/2025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 63 / HB 2071 with you today. My name is Alexandra Battey and I am a voter in Overland Park, Johnson County. I am writing today to strongly encourage the committee to vote no on SB 63 / HB 2071

As a parent, I take the health and safety of my child seriously—it is my first priority and responsibility as a parent. Any bill that limits my right as a parent to make the best decision for my child, that limits the ability of medical providers to advise on and provide care, is of great concern, and this bill limits this right.

One of my cousins recently came out as trans; my oldest friend also happens to be transgender as well. This is only part of their identity, and they are full people entitled to respect and care from the community and its leaders, just the same as everyone else. The broad language of this bill is dangerous for people who are already navigating a challenging situation that is misunderstood by so many.

This law does not make our children or communities safer. Please protect the rights of parents to continue to make the best decision for their children with the continued help and support of medical providers, do not pass this bill.

Thank you all for taking the time to read my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no on the passage of SB 63 / HB 2071.

Alexis Perry
Loud Light- Legislative Fellow
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1/28/2025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and members of the committee, thank you so much for giving me the time to share my thoughts today on SB 63 / HB 2071. My name is Alexis Perry and I am a voter from Leavenworth County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on SB 63/ HB 2071

These bills are restricting far more than what your intention is. You could be endangering far more than trans individuals, which in itself is harmful enough, but this action impacts everyone. I will also note that this action is one that is not reflective of the genuine problems in our state. Any restriction on medical care is a danger to us all and with the state just recently coming out of a pandemic, the danger that this will cause if passed is exceedingly dangerous. I have gone to school, lived with, and all in all loved many trans people who are no different than you and I. They just want to be able to be happy and thrive without fear. All this is is fear.

Once again, I thank you for listening, and I encourage you all to vote no on the passage of SB 63 / HB 2071. Thank you.

Aline Daniella Silva Tolentino
Private Citizen
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3/14/1983

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 63 / HB 2071 with you today. My name is Aline Tolentino writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on SB63 / HB 2071.

I am and deeply concerned about the children's safety and belonging to the community. I believe everyone in their singularity deserves support, specially minorities as trans people.

Thank you all for your conscientious support and understanding to what matters to the community today. Thank you

Alison Poore
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2/20/1995

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and Members of the Committee, I want to thank you for your time today as I share my thoughts and concerns on SB 63 / HB 2071. My name is Alison Poore and I am a voter in Sedgwick County. I write to you today to urge the committee to vote no on SB 63 / HB 2071.

As a sister, daughter, aunt, devoted friend and resident of Kansas SB 63 / HB 2071 is extremely concerning and I oppose the passage of it. Bills, such as this one, surpass the overarching hand of the government by trying to control personal decisions which should be made and supported by individuals, their families and healthcare providers. Gender-affirming care is life-saving care. I think about my 6 nieces and nephews, who are all under the age of 10 and still figuring out who they are and who they want to be. As they are growing up in Kansas, harmful bills like this could threaten their livelihood by not being able to access the care that they need and deserve. The language of SB 63 / HB 2071 is also concerning. It is vague and discriminatory against transgender Kansans. By opposing SB 63 / HB 2071 you would continue to prioritize safety, inclusivity and the health of youth and residents of Kansas.

Thank you again for your time and hearing my thoughts on this bill. I encourage you to vote no of the passage of SB 63 / HB 2071. Thank you.

ALISSA DANZ
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1/28/2025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my thoughts on SB 63 / HB 2071 with you today. My name is Alissa Danz, and I am a voter in Sedgwick County. I am writing to encourage the committee to vote no on SB 63 / HB 2071.

The passing of SB 63 / HB 2071 would have catastrophic effects on the mental health of Kansas citizens of all ages. By denying gender-affirming care, you would, in turn, violate the rights of the very people you have sworn to care for and protect. As American citizens, we have been promised the right to healthcare regardless of gender, status, race, or age. Decisions regarding healthcare should rest with individual persons and families—not the government.

Gender-affirming care has, quite literally, saved the lives of my closest friends and loved ones. Gender dysphoria is a serious issue that significantly impacts a vast number of individuals and our society as a whole. It is important to address it with intentionality and fervor, recognizing its effects on the well-being of younger generations and the future of our nation.

The passing of SB 63 / HB 2071 would severely undermine the incredible work that medical and mental health professionals in this country have already accomplished. I plead with you, on behalf of my loved ones who are still here—alive and well because of life-saving gender-affirming care—vote NO.

I thank you all for taking the time to read my thoughts and feelings on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SB 63 / HB 2071. Thank you.

Alyssa Lynne-Joseph
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1/28/2025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my perspective on SB 63 / HB 2071 with you today. My name is Dr. Alyssa Lynne-Joseph, and I am a voter in Sedgwick County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on SB 63 / HB 2071.

In Spring 2024, I submitted commentary to the Kansas Reflector regarding SB 233, a bill that similarly sought to ban gender-affirming healthcare for adolescents under the age of 18. This commentary outlined the harms that I expected it to inflict on transgender and nonbinary youth if it passed into law. In my written testimony today, I would like to reiterate and expand on the points from this commentary for the committee.

Allow me to explain the perspective upon which my remarks are based. I earned my PhD in Sociology from Northwestern University in 2022, and I have been researching the social aspects of transgender medicine in the U.S. and globally for nearly eight years. A specific area of focus is how knowledge in gender-affirming healthcare is produced and put into practice. The proposed and enacted bans on this care across U.S. states over the past few years have concerned me greatly, and I feel a duty to speak on this issue as an expert and resident of Wichita.

I am particularly troubled by the misrepresentation of scientific evidence in the drive to make gender-affirming healthcare for adolescents under the age of 18 unlawful. Proponents of bills like SB 63 / HB 2071 often argue that there is inadequate scientific evidence for this care, and I anticipate you will receive testimony making these claims. Criticisms of the evidence typically center around the lack of randomized controlled trials (RCTs), which are considered to be the "gold standard" of evidence in medicine. However, these criticisms overlook that RCTs are not ethically feasible in many areas of medicine (not just gender-affirming healthcare), and that other forms of evidence can and should be evaluated to assess the risks and benefits of various interventions.

Puberty blockers offer a poignant example of this issue. Many transgender and nonbinary youth seek these medications, typically provided as a gonadotropin-releasing hormone analogue (GnHRa), because they pause the onset of puberty. These effects are reversible: youth may choose to stop and go through endogenous puberty. Alternatively, youth may choose to begin gender-affirming hormone therapy once they have reached the recommended age.

Because there are no RCTs of puberty blockers for transgender youth, proponents of bills like SB 63 / HB 2071 have portrayed them as “experimental” treatments. This depiction of puberty blockers falsely implies that there is no scientific evidence available to evaluate the benefits and risks of these medications. Contrary to this picture, the prescription of GnHRa has been an accepted treatment for cisgender youth diagnosed with central precocious puberty for several decades.

It is important to note that there are risks associated with the use of GnHRa for precocious puberty, but this treatment remains a standard of care because the known benefits outweigh the risks. Absent RCTs, rigorous medical and social scientific research strongly indicates that the benefits of delaying puberty for transgender youth, including alleviation of gender dysphoria and decreased suicidal ideation or attempts, outweigh the risks. SB 63 / HB 2071, if enacted, would make this care inaccessible to transgender and nonbinary youth, while creating an exception for cisgender youth to receive this same medication.

Supporters of restrictions on gender-affirming healthcare for youth have also expressed concerns that clinicians may be pressuring youth into medical transition. This fear was stoked when an ex-employee of a St. Louis clinic providing care to transgender youth claimed that clinicians had been making inappropriate referrals. Many of the testimonies submitted in favor of SB 233 last legislative session referenced news media accounts of this story and I expect testimonies from proponents of SB 63 / HB 2071 will mention it again. These testimonies neglect to mention two important points. First, youth who were patients at the clinic and their families directly contradicted these claims. Second, an internal investigation completed by Washington University found no substantiation for these allegations.

In the years I have spent interviewing clinicians and patients, observing transgender health conferences, and analyzing medical publications, I have seen no justification for the concern that clinicians are pressuring youth to transition medically. On the contrary, the clinicians I spoke with tended to emphasize that decisions to begin medical transition at any age require careful and individualized consideration by patients and their providers. The trans adults I interviewed who had sought care before the age of 18 generally recounted a widespread reluctance to prescribe puberty blockers among clinicians they had visited, let alone hormone therapy or gender-affirming surgeries.

Social science and medical research has consistently shown that transgender and nonbinary people face high rates of stigma and discrimination in healthcare compared to the general population. Transgender and nonbinary youth experienced significant difficulties accessing care even before U.S. states began restricting its provision, and bans on gender-affirming healthcare are expected to worsen health outcomes in this community.

Once again, I thank you all for considering my testimony on this bill. My expertise in this field leads me to conclude that, if enacted, SB 63 / HB 2071 will cause irreparable harm to Kansas’s transgender and nonbinary youth. Kansas lawmakers must recognize the scientific evidence

demonstrating the benefits of gender-affirming healthcare and vote no on SB 63 / HB 2071.
Thank you.

Amanda Porter
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1/28/2025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for considering my thoughts about SB 63 / HB 2071 with you today. My name is Amanda Porter. I am a voter living in Cowley County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on SB 63 / HB 2071

As an educator at Winfield High School, I am charged with developing the minds of young people to help them become productive citizens. This effort is hogtied when students are not acknowledged as the individuals they are. My experience of thirty years as well as research supports the need for accepting spaces in schools. When a person is denied the expression of who they are, which is what this bill proposes, then how are they to become a well adjusted individual? If parents/guardians have seen the need in their child to seek medical help so that the child may be all that they can be, why do other Kansans have the right to supersede the decisions of the family? One thing I know for fact, young people with emotional support are more successful than those without. I thought our motto was "Kansas Can." This bill clearly shows that Kansas believes parents can't make decisions with their own children.

Thank you for listening to my concerns. I encourage you to vote "no" for the passage of SB 63 / HB 2071.

Amanda Winch
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1/28/2025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 63 / HB 2071 with you today. My name is Amanda Winch and I am a voter in Johnson County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on SB 63 / HB 2071.

Please leave decisions about medical care between patients and their doctors. As a parent, I know my child and what is best for them and carefully weigh medical decisions with a medical professional. A recent study has shown that states that passed these sorts of laws saw suicide attempts among transgender teens increase by 72% in the following years. These are our children and we want to support them. This bill would block parents and medical care professionals from being able to meet the needs of the most vulnerable with evidenced based care.

Thank you for listening to my thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SB 63 / HB 2071. Thank you.

Amber
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1/28/2025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and Members of the Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts on SB 63 / HB 2071 with you today. My name is Amber and I am a voter in Douglas County. I am writing to encourage the committee to vote no on SB 63 / HB 2071.

The bill would be a gross infringement on the First Amendment rights of Kansas citizens. With its mandate including the suppression of any speech deemed as promoting transition by state employees, including school teachers, counselors and administrators, this bill would prevent these trusted adults from intervening in situations where children are being harmed. If a child is being harassed for their expression of their gender, even discussing the bullying and its causes could be construed as unlawful under the text of the bill, and this would create a chilling effect that will lead to lasting harm for the children that you, as representatives, have a mandate to protect.

Once again, I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts, and I encourage you to vote no on the passage of SB 63 / HB 2071. Thank you.



January 26, 2025

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare and the House Committee on Health and Human Services,

The Kansas Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives strongly oppose House Bill 2071 and Senate Bill 63. As health care providers that care for individuals across the gender continuum, we are concerned that the legislature is ignoring evidence-based information regarding the benefits of access to gender-affirming care for all individuals, including youth. We also wish to express our grave concern about the potential harm of removing critical support structures provided by credentialed professionals in counseling, education, and healthcare. Ensuring the health and safety of everyone, including those who are gender non-conforming or transgender, is a moral, professional, and ethical imperative based on standards of practice and our professional code as Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs)¹.

Certified Nurse-Midwives and our Professional Mandate

As Registered Nurses (RNs) and Advanced Practice Midwives (APRNs), we affirm the following are necessary and appropriate in the evidence-based care of transgender and gender non-binary (TGNB) individuals¹:

- We respect transgender and gender non-binary (TGNB) people. This includes becoming familiar with terminology related to gender identities and expression and endeavoring to use correct names, pronouns, and preferred anatomical language.
- We understand TGNB identity as a normal human variation rather than pathology.
- We are knowledgeable about the health care needs of TGNB people, including the individual and systematic barriers to care, as well as the options and benefits of gender-affirming treatment within a framework of shared decision-making and harm reduction.
- We provide or identify appropriate referral for reproductive and sexual health and primary care, including gender-affirming hormone therapy. We believe health care providers should match treatment approaches to the specific needs of TGNB people, particularly their goals for gender affirmation and expression.
- We provide resources and referrals to support and advocate for patients within their families and communities (e.g., schools, workplaces, and other settings).
- We advocate for, and work to create welcoming and inclusive health care settings for TGNB people (e.g., gender-neutral bathrooms and gender inclusive forms, signage, education materials, and electronic health records).

Importance of Gender-Affirming Care

Transgender and gender non-binary (TGNB) people experience disproportionate health disparities that negatively impact their overall well-being². There is a well-documented link between experiences of discrimination and marginalization and poor physical and mental health outcomes. Rates of depression and drug and alcohol use, particularly in youth, are higher than those rates in cisgender people. Most concerning is the fact that suicide attempts among TGNB people are 9 times higher than the general U.S. population².

Gender affirmation focuses on affirming an individual's gender identity and expression. The process of gender affirmation varies greatly between individuals and can include a variety of



processes, such as counseling, change of legal name and gender marker, hormone therapy, and/or surgical procedures³⁻⁵.

Available data support the safety of gender-affirming hormone therapy⁶. Shared decision-making includes discussion of risks, benefits, and individual choice and provides a framework for the provision of gender-affirming therapy in midwifery practice⁷. The theoretical and known risks of gender-affirming hormone therapy must be balanced with the known mental health and safety risks of withholding this care.

Conclusion

Policies that restrict access to gender-affirming care or remove support structures for transgender and gender non-conforming youth place them at significant risk of harm. Evidence from reputable organizations and studies underscores the positive impact of affirming care and environments on mental health and overall well-being. We urge you to consider this evidence and prioritize the health and safety of all youth in Kansas. Therefore, **we respectfully request that you vote “No” to HB 2071 and SB 63.**

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors, Kansas Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives;
kansasacnm@gmail.com

Christy Evers, DNP, APRN, CNM, CNE; President

Cara A. Busenhardt, PhD, APRN, CNM, FACNM, FAAN; Secretary

Chantee Redding, MSN, APRN, CNM; Treasurer

Amber Clark, DNP, APRN, CNM; Board Member

Mary Sarmiento Leite, BSN, RN, SNM; Student Board Member

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Amy Bales
PRIVATE CITIZEN
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1/28/2025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to share with you my views on SB 63 / HB 2071 today. My name is Amy Bales, I'm a voter in Johnson County, and I'm hoping to encourage you to vote NO on SB 63 / HB 2071.

These bills represent a harmful intrusion into private healthcare decisions and risk serious harm to transgender Kansans, their families, and public employees who serve them.

I firmly believe that healthcare decisions should remain between patients, their doctors, and—when appropriate—their parents or guardians. These deeply personal decisions are not the place for government interference. Gender-affirming care is recognized by leading medical organizations as life-saving and medically necessary care. Denying access to this care puts the health and well-being of transgender youth at serious risk, including increasing rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide.

These bills also perpetuate discrimination against transgender Kansans, who already face significant barriers to equality and acceptance. Targeting gender-affirming care emboldens those who seek to marginalize this community and sends a message that transgender people are not worthy of the same dignity, respect, and protections as their peers.

Additionally, provisions in these bills enabling punitive actions against healthcare providers, educators, or other public employees create an environment of fear and hostility. These individuals dedicate their lives to serving Kansans, and they should not face legal or professional retaliation for providing evidence-based care or supporting vulnerable youth.

As a Kansan, I want to see our state prioritize compassion, inclusion, and the right to make private medical decisions without government overreach. These bills undermine these principles and jeopardize the health and safety of some of our most vulnerable residents.

Thank you again for hearing my thoughts on this very important issue. I urge you to reject SB 63 / HB 2071 and instead focus on policies that promote equality, access to healthcare, and the well-being of all Kansans.

AMY CARTER
PRIVATE CITIZEN
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1/28/2025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 63 / HB 2071 with you today. My name is Amy Carter and I am a voter in Johnson County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on SB 63 / HB 2071.

This bill would impede individual and families' rights to make medical decisions for themselves without interference by politicians. Gender affirming care is life saving care. It is evidence-based and safe. As such, every major medical association advocates against bills like this.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SB 63 / HB 2071. Thank you.

Testimony WRITTEN-ONLY
Rev Amy Lippoldt
210 S Ridgewood Dr
Wichita, KS 67218

Dear Lawmakers,

My name is Amy Lippoldt, I am a Kansan, a pastor, and a friend to several trans youth who depend on gender-affirming health care for their well-being. I am urging you to oppose the bill seeking to limit medical care to transgender youth in Kansas, HB2071 and SB63.

I urge you to oppose this bill on the basis of human dignity and the worth of these children. They have discerned, with the help of their families, medical professionals, and therapists that their identity and bodies do not match. Medical treatment to address this reality is essential.

Certainly, this kind of medical care is serious and has lifelong impacts. Which is why families do not start it lightly. They go through a long discernment process and seek professional help. Parents who ask for such treatment for their children believe it is a life-saving measure. To deny such health care is to endanger our children, ignore the medical expertise of their doctors, and take decision-making power away from parents. Parents should have the freedom to parent their children, including making decisions about their schooling, their activities, and their medical care.

Please do not bow to political pressure surrounding this bill from a loud minority of voices. Kansans want freedom to choose their healthcare and Kansas parents want the ability to care for their children. Vote no on these bills.

Thank you.

Amy Lippoldt

January 24th, 2025

HB 2071 OPPOSITION testimony—written only.

I am writing today in opposition to HB 2071, a bill that will prevent children from receiving necessary medical care and punish doctors for providing care that is well within the scope of their practice. I am choosing to focus on the effect this bill will have on the practice of pediatric medicine because you have proven time and again that the physical and mental health of transgender children is not of importance to you. Legislating what well studied, effective proven treatments doctors are allowed to prescribe is a slippery slope that harms patients and makes health care harder to access. Doctors who provide gender affirming care have spent years studying and learning how to provide these treatments. They do so within the scope of the oath they take to do no harm. They provide this care to thousands of children, the majority of which are not transgender. There are countless conditions in pediatrics that require what you categorize as gender affirming care. When you step in and try to outlaw specific treatments you show that you do not understand the nuances of patient care. Very little of medicine is black and white. You want to ban puberty blockers and try to specify every situation in which they can or cannot be used. This means doctors will be afraid to use puberty blockers (which do have uses for children who are not being treated for any gender related issues) because they will have to wonder exactly what constitutes an approved use. Just like with laws that ban reproductive health care, doctors who fear for their licenses and livelihoods will have their hands tied wondering at what point it is safe to intervene. The threat of litigation from all sides and the threat of loss of malpractice insurance will force good doctors to leave the state. Children will suffer because the doctors they need will be unavailable. Endocrinologists treat diabetes, thyroid issues, growth related issues, adrenal gland issues and a number of other life altering and life threatening diseases in addition to all the issues that can arise with puberty. Not having endocrinologists available for children will be devastating. If the climate in Kansas is such that any endocrinologist who treats any puberty related disorder could lose their malpractice insurance many will leave. We already have long waits and a deficit of providers. You will only make this worse. I encourage you to stop spending so much time and effort trying to harm transgender children by forcing them into the lifestyles you deem appropriate and focus instead on making healthcare easier to access for all Kansans.

I would also encourage you to read the American Academy of Pediatrics Statement on Gender Affirming Care which can be found here:

<https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/142/4/e20182162/37381/Ensuring-Comprehensive-Care-and-Support-for>

Thank you.

Amy Voelker, MD, FAAP
13643 S. MurLen Road
Olathe, KS 66062

ANDREA HINK
PRIVATE CITIZEN
andreaehink@gmail.com
1/28/0025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 63 / HB 2071 with you today. My name is Andrea Hink and I am a voter in Johnson County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on SB 63 / HB 2071

As a public educator, I had the privilege to work with students that identified as a part of the Trans community. These students were bright, funny, kind, and were growing into wonderful members of our community as a whole. All these students wanted is what all of us want, to have the right to pursue a life of happiness as their true selves. They do not decide to share how they feel about their true selves lightly. Many understand and fear the treatment they will receive for revealing this truth. They deserve the same rights to privacy in their medical decisions as citizens of this country. Please vote no and continue to allow these wonderful humans the right to continue to pursue a life as their true selves safely.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SB 63 / HB 2071. Thank you

Andreas Braz
Private Citizen
andreasbrazzz@gmail.com
1/28/2025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on SB 63 / HB 2071. My name is Andreas Braz, and I am a voter from Douglas County. I urge the committee to vote NO on SB 63 / HB 2071.

I am here to respectfully express my opposition to this bill on behalf of my cherished community and to explain why I believe you should vote against it. Blocking the passage of SB 63 / HB 2071 is important to me because it ensures that members of the LGBTQIA+ community can live authentically without fear of discrimination or ridicule sanctioned by the state. This bill undermines the fundamental dignity and rights of individuals, and its passage would send a harmful message to many who already face significant challenges in being accepted and respected for who they are.

As leaders, your decisions impact the lives and well-being of countless individuals. Voting against this bill would affirm your commitment to fairness, equality, and the belief that every person deserves to be treated with respect and humanity. I ask you to consider the broader implications of this legislation and the message it sends to the people of our state.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote against the passage of SB 63 / HB 2071. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Andrew Blackton
Private Citizen
andrew@blackton.net
1/28/2025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Andrew Blackton, and I am a resident of Shawnee in Johnson County. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. I am asking that you vote No on HB 2071.

People should be able to make their own decisions about their medical care. Gender-affirming care is managed by licensed medical providers and is individualized to meet the needs of each patient. The patient, their family members, and their doctors should be left in charge of these decisions, not politicians. HB 2071 would take away freedoms from young Kansans.

Thank you for the chance to express my opposition to this bill. Please vote no on HB 2071 to preserve the medical freedom of young Kansans.

Andrew Christensen
Written-Only Opposition
HB 2071

To the members of Kansas House of Representatives:

I am writing as a citizen of Bonner Springs and lifelong Kansan, as well as a healthcare worker in Johnson County. I am writing to you in OPPOSITION of HB 2071. I believe that this bill is harmful to many people and has no benefit. I am opposing similar legislation in the house and plan to oppose this kind of legislation in the future.

This bill, if passed, will restrict life-saving healthcare for many people. As a healthcare worker, I have seen the lifesaving effects of gender affirming healthcare in both my loved ones and my patients at work. This kind of legislation will likely increase suicide rates in LGBTQ+ teenagers, youth, and even young adults. I have had a close friend kill themselves because of this kind of legislation and societal treatment, and I have responded to patients harming themselves in a multitude of ways due to it as well.

I personally identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community, but I have never and currently do not have any interest in seeking gender affirming healthcare for myself. This bill will not directly affect me or my healthcare, but I see the harm it can cause and I will have many loved ones affected directly by this legislation.

I understand that you are trying to do what is best for Kansas and its residents, but I believe this is the wrong thing to focus on. I know this is a hot-button issue right now, but for the amount of benefit it could possibly have is very small for the amount of effort going into putting it into effect.

For the good of Kansas, please consider the lives negatively affected by this legislation and vote NO on HB 2071.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,
Andrew Christensen
He/They

ANGELA BECK
PRIVATE CITIZEN
the5becks@gmail.com
1/25/2025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts on SB 63 / HB 2071 with you today. My name is Angela Beck and I am a voter in Leavenworth County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on SB 63 / HB 2071.

I am the parent of a transgender young adult. Medical decisions of this sort need to remain between the patient and their doctor, and their family. Gender affirming care is life saving care. Medical care for gender dysphoria is evidence based, medically necessary and safe, which is why every major medical association advocates against bills like this.

Thank you for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill and I encourage all of you to vote no on the passage of SB 63 / HB 2071. Thank you.

HB 2071 Opposition Testimony (Written Only)
House Committee on Health and Human Services
January 28, 2025

Angie Powers, private citizen
angierpowers@gmail.com

Chair Carpenter & members of the committee,

Thank you for your work representing Kansas voters in Topeka! I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed legislation that seeks to ban gender-affirming care for minors in Kansas (HB 2071). My opposition is rooted in my experiences as both a mother of a non-binary child who is now an adult and as an educator with 25 years of experience in Kansas classrooms.

As a mother, I have experienced firsthand the profound importance of having the freedom to make decisions in partnership with medical professionals to best support my child. When my youngest came out as non-binary, my focus as a parent was to ensure their well-being, happiness, and readiness to succeed in school and life. Our journey required thoughtful and private conversations within our family, informed by the expertise of medical professionals and the support of educators. At no point did we need the involvement of legislators in those deeply personal decisions.

As an educator, I have seen how students thrive when they can be themselves and feel supported. When families can work with medical professionals to make decisions tailored to their unique circumstances, students are more likely to come to school ready to learn and engage with their peers. Conversely, policies that strip families of their rights to make such decisions disrupt this process, creating unnecessary stress and hardship for families and, ultimately, for schools and communities.

This bill undermines the fundamental rights of Kansas families to do what is best for their children. It disregards the expertise of medical professionals and the autonomy of parents to provide the care and support their children needs. Such legislation does not strengthen our communities; it divides and harms them.

I urge you to reject HB 2071 in the best interest of Kansas families and communities. Families deserve the right to make decisions about their children's health and well-being without government interference. Let us focus on creating a Kansas where all children can thrive, where families are trusted, and where communities are built on compassion and respect.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Angie Powers
Olathe, KS

ANJOELINA BONILLA
PRIVATE CITIZEN
Anjbonillam31@gmail.com
1/28/2025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and members of the committee, I bring forward my thoughts as a born and raised Kansan. My name is Anjoelina Bonilla I am a Certified Medication Aide under the state board of Kansas in the healthcare field, and a voter of Sedgwick county. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on SB 63 / HB 2071.

This bill encourages hate and widespread fear. Hate against transgender people, instills fear in doctors and children. The bill clearly outlines that gender is a form of social expression and culture. And under SB 63 page 2 line 23 (d) a medical professional may not even encourage the use of social transitioning. This is blatantly attacking the very existence of what a healthcare professional is here for. Their very purpose is to help people. Am I to lie to my patients and tell them from now on that they shouldn't be themselves or express how they feel freely or face the threat of my license being revoked?

This bill is worded terribly and defines no scope of the terms "advocate" or "promote" through a state agency could be abused to an extent of any facility funded by the state could be targeted for supporting transgender youth. The language of the bill clearly discriminates against not just transgender youth but transgender people as a whole and raises constitutional concerns about state employee's free speech rights. The transgender youth of which makes up barely a percent of US population, yet this bill pushes forward to bring them into the center stage for attack.

Science has long told us that gender affirming care is life saving. You wouldn't tell a child with depression they couldn't have SSRIs or a teenagers with PCOS they couldn't have hormone therapy. This bill also encourages the radical idea that doctors are performing sex change operations on minors, which has never happened and no one in opposition of this bill is advocating for. Hormone therapy itself not even an option on the table until children have gone through physiological evaluations and months of therapy to determine if hormones are even the right course of action. So the idea that these operations are taking place regularly is as blatantly false as it is exasperative.

I will end with this. We see you. You think this passes over heads but we see you. And so will the history books. There's a trend in world history that demonizes minorities to create a distraction from the bigger issues: of which there are many. So while people freeze to death in the streets in the snow storm or the family down the road can't afford their groceries, you waste more time and more of our tax dollars to get us to focus on transgenders and destabilize the

medical industry. Know we see you, and know your place in history and where you want to stand when future generations look at your actions.

I thank you for taking the time to hear what has to be said. And I implore you to see this from the perspective of me and many of the other healthcare and state funded professionals have long demonstrated as medically and physiological necessary. Please vote NO on the passage of SB 63/ HB 2071. Thank you.

Ann Norbury
PRIVATE CITIZEN
annknorbury@gmail.com
1/28/2025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 63/ HB 2071. My name is Ann Norbury and I'm a voter in Johnson County. I encourage the committee to vote NO on SB 63 / HB 2071.

I oppose this bill because I feel that medical decisions should be made in private with doctors, patients, and their families; politicians should not be involved. Gender affirming care is individualized to meet the needs of each patient.

Please note that every major medical association advocates against such a bill. Laws already cover requirements of informed consent. This proposed bill is unnecessary.

The language of this bill clearly discriminates against transgender Kansans. It also raises concerns about state employees free speech rights. Discrimination is not a Kansas value.

Thank you for hearing my testimony about this bill. I encourage you to vote NO on SB 63 /HB 2071.

My name is Anna Chandler. I am 37 years old, born and raised here in Kansas. Kansas is where I married my husband and where we're proud to be raising our two sons. I am gravely concerned about the impact bill HB 207 could have on other children of this state and ask the House not to pass it. Any legislators who do pass this bill could never get my vote again.

We know from mountains of scientific evidence that social transition helps youth, not harms them. We need to protect our children of this state in whatever gender identity they identify or explore - cis, trans, or nonbinary. Suppressing social transition increases the risk of suicide amongst minors - I know the members of this state could never bear such a great harm as pushing children towards an early and avoidable death.

This bill also threatens adults. The adults caring for these children as parents or guardians, as doctors or teachers, or as any employee of the state. It would be ridiculous to threaten job loss, fear, and harm to hundreds if not thousands of adults who are simply looking out for the best interest of our children.

Last, this bill overreaches our constitutionally protected First Amendment rights. As Americans and Kansans, we have a right to share our opinions about gender - and about scientific research - just as we have the right to share our opinions about football, God, and the best casserole dish. I ask the legislature not to limit our vital freedoms that so many have died to protect.

Please do not pass bill HB 207. Doing so would be an act of cruelty, and it may even put blood on your hands.

Thank you,
Anna Chandler

Anna Midyette
Private citizen
annam2807@gmail.com
1/28/0025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Thank you for your time and service to our state. I'm asking you to vote non on SB 63 / HB 2071. My name is Anna Midyette and I vote in Doniphan County.

I have seen firsthand how access to gender-affirming treatment can save the life of a child. Before treatment, this child was withdrawn, and depressed. Once they started transitioning, this child was able to pursue their interests. Now they are excelling in college with a double major and a minor. Instead of a heartbreaking statistic, they will make positive contributions to our society.

These bills are wrong - politicians should not dictate health care choices. That should be up to the patient, their family and medical professionals.

Citizens of this great state should be happy, healthy and FREE even if they don't fit into the definition of what some people think is "right".

Thanks for your time. Please, please, please vote no on the passage fo SB 63 / HB 2071.

Dear members of the House and Human Services Committee:

I have read the text of HB 2017 and I am concerned this bill does not represent the best interest of Kansas citizens.

I am opposed to this legislation because it removes my ability as a parent to make health care decisions for my child.

I am opposed to legislation because it removes my right to make my own health care decisions.

I am opposed to legislation because it prohibits my doctor from making the best health care decisions for my body and my circumstance.

I am opposed to this legislation because seems to be written out of fear and not medical science.

I am opposed to this legislation because it limits personal expression.

Raising children frequently feels like navigating uncharted territory. There are rarely easy answers or simple topics. Gender identity definitely fits into that category. Punitive, absolute legislation for a topic our society is only just beginning to understand is not the right approach. This legislation will serve to make those supporting the bill feel better at the expense of the health and wellness of those impacted by the bill.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Anna Purcell

Anna Wilhelm
Private citizen
wilhelmheating@gmail.com
1/28/2025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 63 / HB 2071. My name is Anna Wilhelm and I am a voter in Jackson County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to Vote No on SB 63 / HB 2071.

I have a trans grandchild who lives in another state. Honestly she is afraid to travel to Kansas because of bills like this. My husband and I are no longer able to travel to visit her and her family so you are shuttering her ability to have any in person contact with us because of this antiquated thinking. She cannot change how she was born, and I hope you will look at science instead of your heavy-handed ideal of how you think children should be treated. You are limiting health care providers to provide the assistance our children need.

Even in the legislature itself, there have to be trans people who are affected by this. Biology is biology. You cannot play God to others. This is 2025, and we are still debating this when health professionals and educators will tell you that this harms children rather than helping them.

I wish you would take the Golden Rule to heart instead of imposing your rules on others: Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you.

Thank you for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you to vote no on the passage of SB 63 / HB 2071.

January 26, 2025
Attention: House Committee on Health and Human Services
Re: Opposition to House Bill 2071
Written Testimony by Anne Riekenberg

Chairman Carpenter and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to you today to express my extreme concern with House Bill 2071. Passage of this bill would cause undue harm to transgender children and adolescents in the state of Kansas. I can attest to this quite personally, as my niece is transgender.

Though she is now an adolescent, it became clear to our family when she was very young that this child was experiencing gender dysphoria living in a male body. This dysphoria caused her clear emotional distress for most of her childhood. Almost a year ago, she began to openly transition to the female gender. She was medically diagnosed with gender dysphoria, and last fall, began to receive gender-affirming care. I can sincerely tell you that I have never seen her happier and more thriving. She is healthier in all ways. This is due not only to her own bravery in letting the world see who she really is, but to the adults she trusts to support her and take care of her—her parents, grandparents, aunt and uncle, family friends, teachers, and especially her medical providers. No one should ever be penalized for helping a child to be safe, healthy, and happy.

If my niece is denied her gender-affirming care in the her home state of Kansas, I know it will have severely traumatic effects on her mental, emotional, and physical well-being. I therefore urge you not to allow this bill to go to the House floor.

Respectfully,
Anne Riekenberg
Lenexa, Kansas

Written-only OPPONENT testimony in opposition of HB 2071, AN ACT concerning children and minors; relating to healthcare of minors; enacting the help not harm act; prohibiting healthcare providers from treating a child whose gender identity is inconsistent with the child's sex; authorizing a civil cause of action against healthcare providers for providing such treatments; restricting use of state funds to promote gender transitioning; prohibiting professional liability insurance from covering damages for healthcare providers that provide gender transition treatment to children; requiring professional discipline against a healthcare provider who performs such treatments; adding violation of the act to the definition of unprofessional conduct for physicians; amending K.S.A. 65-2837 and repealing the existing section.

TO: House Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Ari Hawk, LMSW

DATE: January 26, 2025

Chair Carpenter and committee members,

Thank you for giving me time to share my thoughts with you on HB 2071. My name is Ari Hawk, LMSW, and I am a voter in Sedgwick County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2071.

First and foremost, as a social worker licensed by the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board, my professional values include the importance of every Kansan's right to self-determination. Simply put, every Kansan has the right to make their own decisions, provided those decisions do not cause harm to self or others. The science behind gender-affirming care, including studies published by the American Psychological Association, clearly indicates that providing gender-affirming care to minors diagnosed with gender dysphoria in children is best practice and does **not** harm the child. Furthermore, HB 2071 takes the right to make a child's medical decision(s) away from parents, guardians, and medical professionals. Patients, families, and their doctors should have the freedom to make their own private medical decisions, without the government infringing upon this right. HB 2071 very clearly seeks to infringe on parents' rights to make medical decisions for their children.

Furthermore, HB 2071 has concerningly broad reach beyond the healthcare space. HB 2071 does not define what it means to "promote", "provide", or "advocate" for social transition or gender-affirming medical care. Social transition includes simple actions such as a new haircut, clothing, and a new name if the individual so chooses. None of these actions are permanent, nor are they inherently harmful to children. Again, not only does the language of the bill infringe upon Kansan's right to self-determination, it raises

constitutional concern regarding state employees' first amendment right to free speech due to its broad scope.

Finally, HB 2071 includes provisions that would add providing gender-affirming care to the definition of “unprofessional conduct” and “professional incompetency”. As I stated previously, the American Psychological Association (APA) has published evidence-based literature and issued statements **in support of** gender-affirming care, including social transitioning, for minors. In addition to the APA, nearly every major American medical association has issued statements **in support of** gender-affirming care for minors, including but not limited to: the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Association of Social Workers, the Pediatric Endocrine Society, the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, and the National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women’s Health. (A full list of major medical societies, and their statements in support of gender-affirming care for minors, can be found at glad.org.) The evidence overwhelmingly suggests that it is, in fact, competent and professional conduct for healthcare providers, such as myself, to follow the recommendations of such organizations.

In conclusion, if passed, HB 2071 infringes on parents’ rights to make decisions for their children and healthcare professionals’ right to practice competent medicine. I urge you to vote NO on HB 2071.

Thank you,
Ari Hawk, LMSW

Ashleigh Heldstab
Private Citizen
aheldstab@outlook.com
1/28/0025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 63 / HB 2071 with you today. My name is Ashleigh Heldstab and I am a voter in Johnson County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on SB 63 / HB 2071

To start, I think it completely inappropriate that the government feels the right to be involved in medical care, but only medical care that doesn't seem to align with their religious beliefs. We are built on a foundation of the separation of church and state and I would like to maintain that separation. Gender affirming care is evidence-based and individualized for each person. These decisions should be left up to the patient, their families, and their medical provider. There are already laws in Kansas that require appropriate assessment and informed consent. If you claim to be "pro-life," there is good news, evidence shows that medical care for gender dysphoria is life saving! By voting for this bill, you would put kids lives at risk. Finally, the wording in this bill remains too broad and puts freedom of speech at risk for many state employees involved with trans youth.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SB 63 / HB 2071. Thank you.

Ashley Balza
PRIVATE CITIZEN
ashleybbalza@gmail.com
1/28/2025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 63 / HB 2071 with you today. My name is Ashley Balza and I am a voter in Sedgwick County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on SB 63 / HB 2071.

SB 63 and HB 2071 will cause a lot of harm to individuals I deeply love and care about, and their communities. Anti-trans policies emboldens transphobia and disrupts community cohesion. They undermine civil rights and perpetuate discrimination, harming society as a whole. Bans on transitioning are deeply harmful because they deny transgender individuals access to life-saving care. Gender affirming treatments supported by major medical organizations, reduce depression, anxiety, and suicidality, especially in youth. These bans exacerbate gender dysphoria, send a message of invalidation, and strip individuals of autonomy over their bodies. They also create healthcare disparities by limiting access to knowledgeable providers and fostering mistrust between patients and doctors. For trans kids, these bans send a heartbreaking message: that who they are isn't valid or worth supporting. I have seen first hand how gender affirming care makes people feel seen, loved, and able to move forward in the world.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no on the passage of SB 63 / HB 2071. Thank you.

AMW
Private citizen
ashlynn.worcester98@gmail.com
1/28/2025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Dear legislators of Kansas, thank you for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 63/ HB 2071. My name is Ashlynn and I am a resident of Kansas. I am writing today to implore you to vote now on SB 63 / HB 2071.

I have many friends who are transgender, and I have seen them struggle with finding any support with their transition. Whether it be just needing someone to talk to or even feel supported while they are figuring out who they are, this bill would make them feel even more isolated than they already are increasing the likelihood of them committing suicide due to them not being able to even talk to a therapist or a teacher. Taking away a therapist's ability to treat their patients in fear of losing their job is an outright violation of patient confidentiality. What happens between a therapist and the patient is not public knowledge. Knowing you can talk to a therapist is sometimes the only place trans people have to go to feel safe and heard due to not having family who support them. Taking away teachers' ability to educate students on gender and helping other students understand what these kids are going through is incredibly important as well. Having more people who are educated on these things stops ignorance and can help prevent bullying thus lessening the likelihood of these students committing suicide. On top of all of this, professionals should not fear losing their jobs for trying to educate or support their students or patients. Voting no on this bill will help prevent transgender youth from taking their lives and help them mentally in the long run.

Once again, I thank you for taking your time to hear my thought and story on this bill, I encourage you all to say no to passing SB 63/ HB 2071, and giving the youth your support and voice through their struggles, thank you.

Thank you for your time Madame Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing to you as I have concerns about the Bills being addressed at this hearing, as well as Bills proposed in countless legislative bodies across the country. The actions outlined in the upcoming bills proposed (HB 2071 and SB 63) are not only in violation of our first amendment rights as citizens of this country, but also an insult to Kansans. Instead of providing Medicare to 106,000 adult Kansans and 45,000 children, our legislators have placed their concerns into culture wars while allowing Medicare expansion to die silently, without a hearing. Placing restrictions on providers of not only healthcare, but also childcare in relation to their freedom of speech and expression is outlandish, especially considering the struggles those fields are facing to provide high-quality care in a post-pandemic world. Restricting physicians' abilities to advise the best treatments for their patients, and violating their Oath as providers, is not in the best interest of any Kansan. Effective medicine is brought about between patient and providers, nobody else should have any right to deny or restrict access to care that is deemed medically necessary. Regardless of the politicalization of a child or person's identity, these policies should never interfere with a healthcare providers' abilities to provide safe, productive, and effective treatment for their patients, or to interfere with conversations required to achieve medical wellness and improve our quality of life. Both bills mentioned previously would put unnecessary restrictions on providers and ultimately put children at higher risks for abuse or mistreatment, as the adults in their lives will not be able to have important conversations without fear of prosecution due to potential complications with the legislation proposed.

I hope our concerns have not fallen on deaf ears, but into the hands of legislators who have our best interests as citizens in mind as opposed to targeting 0.49% of our population.

Ashton J. Henry, CPhT, Jan. 2025

Aubrey Eicher
Private Citizen
checker0393@yahoo.com
1/28/2025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and Members of the Committee, I want to thank you for taking the time to allow me to share my thoughts on HB 2071. My name is Aubrey Eicher and I am a private citizen of Topeka, KS and a Shawnee County voter. I am writing to you in opposition of HB 2071. I earnestly urge you to vote no on HB 2071.

I am in opposition of HB 2071 because the bill puts people I know and care about at risk of losing medically necessary interventions. I have observed, as a family member and as a past teacher, the benefits of adolescent persons having access to gender affirming care. When in an environment where they were listened to and supported by the people around them they have been more successful and feel more safe and secure. The government should not interfere with each individual's their family and healthcare providers' ability to discuss and determine best practice for each person's health. Studies show that having access to gender affirming care earlier in life can have many positive impacts on transgender and gender diverse youth's mental health. These impacts can be lifesaving. Everyone should be able to determine with their family and medical team what interventions could be imperative to their wellbeing.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. I urge you to vote no on the passage of HB 2071.

August Rowse
PRIVATE CITIZEN
august.w.rowse@gmail.com
1/28/0025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony. My name is August Rowse, I am a voter in Douglass County, and I would like to encourage the committee to vote no on SB 63/HB 2071.

I came out as trans when I was 16 years old, and started to medically transition when I was 18. Prior to coming out I struggled severely with my mental health. I cannot overstate how beneficial being able to come out at school and having an environment where my gender identity was accepted and affirmed was to me. I can't imagine how much worse my life would have been if policies like those proposed in this bill had been in place. Similarly, being able to medically transition was the single best thing that has ever happened for me, my mental health, and my overall quality of life. Gender affirming care is life saving and a bill like this is going to have devastating consequences for the lives of the people it effects. I am terrified that if this bill is passed it will result in an increased suicide rate for young trans people, a demographic that is already at higher risk for mental health issues and suicide. I ask that you have compassion and empathy for the youths whose futures and livelihoods are being threatened and vote no on SB 63/HB 2071.

I would like to thank you again for hearing my thoughts on this bill, and once again I ask that you vote no on the passage of SB 63/HB 2071.

B. Trickey
Regarding the House Committee on Health & Human Services
January 26, 2025

To Representative Will Carpenter and members of the House Committee on Health & Human Services:

My name is B. Trickey, and I am a resident of Lawrence, Kansas.

I oppose HB 2071, "The Help Not Harm Act," as I believe it infringes on our constitutional First Amendment rights, in addition to the fact that suppressing social transition does not help youth but actively harms them.

As a trans woman and lifelong Kansas resident, I have a vested interest in how trans and gender nonconforming identities are represented and discussed in our state. I know from personal experience that access to the necessary healthcare for trans and nonbinary Kansans — for both youth and adults — has been a difficult and hardwon right. And I believe that access to that care — as well as the thorough discussions between medical professionals and their patients to attain it — is not within the authority of the legislature to limit.

I struggled with my mental health throughout my teen years and into adulthood not in small part because of my lack of opportunities to discuss my experiences with gender dysphoria with the professionals who could help me receive the care I needed. For years, I didn't understand the nuances of my mental health, and it was only through open conversations with trusted adults — teachers, counselors, professors, and medical and mental health professionals — that I was able to begin getting the lifesaving care I needed.

My social and medical transitions have been incredibly important to my improved mental health, and I could only make those decisions responsibly and thoughtfully by having the right to talk about it openly with the professionals who could best support me. I am concerned that with the effects of HB 2071, Kansans will lose their ability to properly explore and identify their specific mental health needs, whether that includes transition — social or medical — or choosing another form of care if transition is not what is best for them.

If the health and safety of Kansas youth is your priority, I believe you owe it to them to maintain and protect access to all of the resources that can potentially help them, so they have the best options for care with help from responsible and empathetic medical professionals.

To protect these rights and resources for Kansas youth, I urge you to vote against HB 2071.

Thank you all for taking the time to read my testimony.

B. Trickey
Lawrence, KS

Bailey Tredway
PRIVATE CITIZEN
baileyt349@gmail.com
1/28/0025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Members of the committee and chairman, thank you for letting me and giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 63 / HB 2071. My name is Bailey Tredway and I am a voter in Douglas County. Today, I'm writing to you to encourage the committee to vote NO on SB 63 / HB 2071.

I honestly can't believe I have to write this. As a queer and nonbinary person in Kansas, I'm genuinely worried for my fellow queer kids. Healthcare is a very personal decision, and to intrude on that privacy is frankly ridiculous. I'm exhausted seeing my fellow queer youth dying from suicide because they don't have access to the life-affirming care they need. Because that's what this is - life-affirming care. This care is so important to trans youth, and it has no effect on anyone other than themselves. Do you want to sentence children to death? Because that's what this bill is doing.

Once again, I hope you consider all of the testimonies you read. This is not politics, this is personal and people's livelihood. Thank you for hearing my thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no on the passage of SB 63 / HB 2071.

Barbara Williams
Leavenworth Family Pride: Board Member
bjwilliams.gla@gmail.com
1/28/0025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Thank you Chairman and Committee Members for the opportunity to provide testimony today for SB 63 and HB 2071. I am asking you to oppose the bill before you. It does not stand on facts or reason.

As we know, this bill failed last year and it needs to fail again this year. This bill is a major overreach by our state government that will damage the sacred relationship between physician and patient. Our parents of trans children need the guidance and support of experts in the medical field to enable them to do what is best for their children. What they don't need is a state governmental body that will interfere with that right. As parents we all want to have access to the best medical care for our children. This bill does not allow for that to happen. We owe parents of trans children the opportunity to seek out the best practices in the medical field that will help their children thrive just like the opportunity a lot of us have had when raising our cis children. Targeting trans children and their parents is cruel and bills like this demean all Kansan parents.

I am asking all of you on this committee to vote no on this bill. Thank you.

January 27, 2025

Chairperson Carpenter, Vice Chairperson Bryce, Ranking Member Ruiz, and members of the Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony regarding HB 2071, "Enacting the Help Not Harm Act".

As noted in a July 18, 2023 letter¹ from the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychologic Association, and and 61 other organizations representing clinical professionals and scientists, "Health care to treat gender dysphoria is medically necessary, evidence-based care provided to transgender people to alleviate the psychological distress associated with incongruence between an individual's gender and their sex assigned at birth."

The letter continues: "A robust body of evidence compiled over the last 50 years has demonstrated that gender-affirming care is safe, effective care that improves the physical health and mental health of transgender people. For example, research has shown that receipt of gender-affirming care among young people (aged 13 to 20) was associated with 60% lower odds of depression and 73% lower odds of suicidality²."

Il look to my legislature to focus on solutions for the critical problems facing us - ensuring that Kansans have access to affordable health care, housing, child care, and jobs that provide a meaningful wage, including in our many rural communities. I urge you to abandon SB 63 given the overwhelming scientific and medical evidence against it, and instead focus the Committee's time on the pressing issues that affect Kansans.

Thank you,
Ben Walker
Overland Park, KS

1

<https://www.psychiatry.org/getattachment/2dbcc56f-7a59-4a81-9b3f-c2c8c4cffc48/APA-Group-Letter-Congressional-Leadership-Gender-Affirming-Care-07182023.pdf>

² Tordoff, D. M., Wanta, J. W., Collin, A., Stepney, C. S., Inwards-Breland, D. J., & Ahrens, K. (2022). Mental Health Outcomes in Transgender and Nonbinary Youths Receiving Gender-Affirming Care. *JAMA Network Open*, 5(2). doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.0978

Beth Roselyn
PRIVATE CITIZEN
beth.roselyn@gmail.com
1/28/2025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chair and Members of the Committee,
Thank you for taking the time to read my written testimony on SB 63/HB 2071. My name is Beth Roselyn and I am a voter in Douglas County. I am writing to you today to encourage the committee to vote no on SB 63/HB 2071.

SB 63/HB 2071 interferes with the rights of Kansans to make their own private medical decision by allowing the legislature to make decisions on behalf of Kansas youth, their parents, and their medical providers. Gender-affirming care is not one-size fits all. Doctors work with patients and their families to determine the most appropriate care based on well-established medical evidence.

The language in this bill is very broad, leaving it open to interpretations that could harm Kansans well beyond medical care. The bill does not define terms like, “promote”, “provide”, or “advocate for” social transition or gender-affirming medical care, which means that anyone who works with trans youth could be targeted by this legislation. This bill would enshrine discrimination into the laws of Kansas, a state that prides itself on promoting freedom, starting with its establishment as a Free State in 1861. Legislating discrimination through government overreach is not consistent with Kansas values.

The constant attacks against trans people, particularly trans youth, in the US and Kansas over the last several years have had real and measurable negative impacts on the health and well-being of trans people. A paper published in Nature Human Behaviour in 2024 (“State-level anti-transgender laws increase past-year suicide attempts among transgender and non-binary young people in the USA” by Lee et al.) showed that enacting anti-trans legislation increased suicide attempts among trans and nonbinary youth by up to 72%. To be clear, passing legislation like SB 63 leads to significant increases in youth suicide attempts. Living in a state where the people who make laws designed to explicitly discriminate against trans youth leads to depression and despair. Trans kids do not attempt suicide because they are trans but because they live in states in which adults who are charged with passing laws to protect and support the citizens of their states choose instead to deny them access to healthcare, demonize them, and provide a permission structure that increases bullying and violence.

In a survey of Kansas voters last year, Perry Udem found that 79% of Kansans felt that state politicians are not in touch with the financial challenges facing the average Kansas family and 70% disagreed with the statement “Most Kansas politicians are looking out for working families in the state and trying to pass policies that will help them” (28% somewhat disagree, 42% strongly disagree; only 4% of voters surveyed strongly agreed). Instead of spending time on legislation that would help Kansas families, like Medicaid expansion, ensuring access to

healthcare in rural communities, investing in childcare, or addressing childhood poverty and hunger, which are all issues Kansas care about, one of the first pieces of legislation this body is considering is focused on harming kids in Kansas and interfering with the ability of doctors, teachers, counselors, and others to be supportive, affirming adults in children's lives.

According to 2022 data, 131,430 children in Kansas are food insecure and 90,000 live in poverty. Additionally, 38,000 Kansas children are without health insurance. Estimates suggest there are about 2,100 trans youth between 13 and 17 in Kansas. Why is the Kansas legislature so focused on harming those 2,100 trans kids instead of passing legislation to help the kids and families in Kansas living in poverty, with food insecurity, and without adequate access to healthcare? Nearly identical legislation was defeated last year. Maybe it is time to shift your focus to what matters to Kansas families instead of making life harder for kids who just want to be themselves.

Thank you for your time. Please oppose this harmful legislation. Vote no on SB 63/HB 2071.

January 22, 2025

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to ask you to oppose SB 63 and HB2071.

I am the proud daughter of Republican Senator Arden Booth (1971-1976). There were two things my Dad loved. His Hereford cattle and his country, especially his Republican Party. Because the Republican Party stood for small-g-government. All my life I heard, 'we don't need the government in our business'. Goldwater said it best, and his book, The Conscious of a Conservative, was mandatory reading in my home by the time I was ten. Nixon said it. Bob Dole said it. Reagan, my father's favorite after Goldwater, said it loud and clear. The Bushes said it.

Republicans stand for small-g-government. Keep the government out of our businesses and out of our lives.

Now MAGAS want Capital-G-Big-Government. They want to us insert the Government into the most intimate personal decisions in peoples' lives. They want to insert Big Government in decisions between a mother, father, child and physician. Please read that again - a family and their physician. Barry Goldwater is literally rolling over in his grave.

Now is the time is to decide - to make a public statement. Are you a small-g-government Republican or are you a Big-G-Government Maga?

Vote No on Big Government intrusion into our private lives. Continue the legacy of these great Republican patriots. Continue the legacy of Republican small-g-government. Keep government out of our businesses and our lives.

Sincerely

Bette Booth

BEVERLY BAUMGARTNER

My position as an ordained minister serving College Hill United Methodist Church, Wichita, KS
bev.baumgartner@collegehill.org

1/28/0025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071

Opponent

Written only

To the Chair and Members of the Committee, thank you for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 63/HB 2071 with you today. My name is Bev Baumgartner. I am a voter in Sedgwick County as well as a pastor in the United Methodist Church, and I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on SB 63/HB 2071.

Offering a trusted listening ear to children of God who are members of the LGBTQ+ community has been one of the joys of my twenty-two years of ordained Christian ministry. Around ten years ago, without understanding why, I felt a little inner nudge to learn more about being an ally to transgender Kansans. True to God's generous character, that little nudge led to an avalanche of blessings. In the last ten years, my life has been blessed beyond measure by the love, presence, and creativity of the trans and nonbinary friends and family members God has brought into my life. When I think of the children and parents who will be harmed if this bill passes, my heart rages. I don't think supporters of this bill understand that parents whose children experience the horror of living in a physical body that doesn't match who they are on the inside seldom know how to support their children if they don't themselves have a community of support. To be loving and supportive parents (which I believe we all want for Kansas children) adults walking with children through gender dysphoria need their children to have access to developmentally appropriate gender-affirming care from trusted providers. If you would wince if I spoke to you using the wrong gender pronouns, I hope you can understand that trans and nonbinary children feel the same way when misgendered, except they are less resourced and less confident than you about how to make the situation right. Kansas families that do not have access to developmentally appropriate gender-affirming care for their transgender and nonbinary children suffer. I hope we all know that gender reassignment surgery is not what we're talking about here. Let's name that. This punitive bill is about making it illegal for Kansas children to dress and act and be seen on the outside as the people they understand themselves to be on the inside. We are talking about children who feel panicked about the onset of puberty in the wrong body not getting reversible pharmacological support for that. We are talking about teenagers who have clarity on their gender identity being forced to menstruate or grow facial hair when that is the most horrible thing they can imagine. When I received that nudge ten years ago, I didn't know I would get so close to young people and parents who feel scared about what the future may hold for them. Friends, even if you can't imagine what it would be like to be a parent who loves your child so much and hates to see them suffer developing in the wrong body, can you find it in your heart to allow some people to feel this way? Can you find it in your hearts to keep the great state of Kansas a place where it is safe for children to grow up free from cruel and punitive external control of their bodies?

From my heart, I hope you will say yes to that question and vote NO on the passage of SB 63 / HB 2071. Thank you for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill.

01/26/2025

HB2071

Proponent

Written Only

Chairman Carpenter and Members of the House Health & Human Services Committee,

I am submitting my proponent testimony for HB2071. I strongly believe children should not be subject to any sort of gender reassignment surgery or chemical change. Any adult who would allow this to happen or perform these types of surgeries should be indicted for child abuse.

I strongly agree with not allowing our state funds (our individual tax dollars) to be used to perform this child abuse. Anyone who does receive state funds should not be able to prescribe medication for any chemical gender altering drugs. They should also not be able to perform any type of gender altering surgery as well. Also, there should be no medical assistance rebates provided for any type of gender altering surgeries.

I agree with severe punishment for all doctors or medical professionals who prescribe gender altering drugs and who perform gender altering surgeries. I believe it is fair to revoke licenses if any medical doctor, nurse, or anyone else is involved with any type of gender altering procedures on a child. They should also be held personally liable if needed without the availability of professional liability insurance.

With that said, there are some very small instances where a child is born with both sets of gender attributes. In that very small percentage, gender surgery could be performed within a set of guidelines.

I hope this bill will move forward. You must be a sick individual to perform this type of procedure on a child. Protect the children of Kansas and pass this bill. I support HB2071.

Respectfully,

Brett Anderson

Republican Precinct Committeeman

Sedgwick County

Dr. Briana McGeough
House District 45 & Senate District 2
Testimony in Opposition of HB 2071

My name is Dr. Briana McGeough, and I am an Assistant Professor in the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare. My testimony is offered in my personal capacity as an expert in the field of LGBTQ mental health and informed by my years of research and mental health practice in this field, not as a representative of the University of Kansas. My research focuses on understanding mental health challenges experienced by LGBTQ individuals, including transgender youth, and identifying strategies to promote the mental health and well-being of LGBTQ individuals.

I am testifying today because I strongly oppose HB 2071, and I am concerned about the impact that this policy could have on the mental health of transgender youth and their ability to access essential healthcare services.

A robust body of research, employing a variety of research methodologies, has found that having access to gender-affirming care is linked to better mental health outcomes for transgender youth. These benefits include reductions in suicidality, depression, and gender dysphoria.¹ Furthermore, youth who have had access to gender-affirming care earlier in life experience better mental health than youth who accessed care later in life,² suggesting the importance of opposing efforts to obstruct transgender youth's access to gender-affirming care. In sum, access to gender-affirming care is a critical aspect of promoting the mental health of transgender youth.

Social transition is often a critical aspect of gender-affirming mental healthcare for transgender youth and has also been linked to improvements in mental health, including depression and anxiety.³ This bill would create barriers to mental health service providers engaging in even basic informational conversations with their clients about social transitioning.

Lastly, bills like this have impacts beyond their explicit aims. Firstly, policies, such as this one, that restrict access to gender-affirming care by threatening sanctions against healthcare providers have been found to have chilling effects whereby healthcare providers become less willing to provide legal, necessary, evidence-based procedures, out of fear of penalties and threats of violence.⁴ Secondly, this bill is discriminatory as it denies essential, life-saving healthcare to transgender people on the basis of their membership to a vulnerable population. Such discriminatory legislation serves to perpetuate stigma against transgender people. Research has shown that living in a state with more laws that discriminate against transgender people is associated with greater levels of psychological distress and suicidality among members of the transgender community.^{5,6} Furthermore, research conducted in Kansas shows that even merely proposing discriminatory policies, such as this one, harms transgender youth by exposing them to the message that they do not deserve equitable access to essential community support and resources.⁷

In sum, this bill aims to reduce transgender youth's access to potentially life-saving healthcare that has been linked to improved mental health outcomes. It restricts mental health service providers' ability to offer support around social transitions, which may be harmful to transgender youth's mental health. Lastly, bills such as this serve to stigmatize transgender people, and such stigmatization has been linked to adverse mental health effects. As a researcher and mental health service provider committed to the mental health of transgender youth, I urge you to vote against this bill.

¹ Lee, J. Y., & Rosenthal, S. M. (2023). Gender-affirming care of transgender and gender-diverse youth: Current concepts. *Annual Review of Medicine*, 74, 107-116.

² Sorbara, J. C., Chiniara, L. N., Thompson, S., & Palmert, M. R. (2020). Mental health and timing of gender-affirming care. *Pediatrics*, 146(4).

³ Olson, K. R., Durwood, L., DeMeules, M., & McLaughlin, K. A. (2016). Mental health of transgender children who are supported in their identities. *Pediatrics*, 137(3).

⁴ Hughes, L. D., Kidd, K. M., Gamarel, K. E., Operario, D., & Dowshen, N. (2021). "These laws will be devastating": Provider perspectives on legislation banning gender-affirming care for transgender adolescents. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 69(6), 976-982.

⁵ Price, M. A., Hollinsaid, N. L., McKetta, S., Mellen, E. J., & Rakhilin, M. (2023). Structural transphobia is associated with psychological distress and suicidality in a large national sample of transgender adults. *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*, 1-10.

⁶ Lee, W. Y., Hobbs, J. N., Hobaica, S., DeChants, J. P., Price, M. N., & Nath, R. (2024). State-level anti-transgender laws increase past-year suicide attempts among transgender and non-binary young people in the USA. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 1-11.

⁷ Pacey, M. S., Sattler, P., Goffnett, J., & Jen, S. (2020). "It feels like home": Transgender youth in the Midwest and conceptualizations of community climate. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 48(6), 1863-1881.

Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Bridgette Moore, and I live in Olathe. I am a concerned constituent.

I'm here to talk about SB 63/HB2071

I believe in small government. How can the government be small when it stands between a patient and a doctor? Between a parent and a child?

I believe this bill is harmful to Kansans because it doesn't allow parents and healthcare providers to do what is in the best interest of the child because it's against the religious beliefs of the legislature.

It also makes social transitioning illegal which doesn't hurt anyone. Not socially transitioning is more likely to cause HUMAN BEINGS with gender dysphoria to have depression, anxiety, or suicidal ideation

I ask you to vote against these bills and keep Kansas the home of the free - free to retain the right to make their own healthcare and raise their children as they see fit.

Bridgette Moore
1305 N Leevue Dr.
Olathe, KS 66061

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2071 with you. My name is Bryson Ripley. I've lived in the great state of Kansas my entire life, unless you don't count the years I was serving our country in the Marine Corps. When I'm not conducting my duties as the President of Veterans For Peace Chapter 97, I'm working towards my Psychology and Sociology degree at the University of Kansas. I am asking you to please oppose HB 2071, and to not strip the rights of parents to make private medical decisions for their children. As well as to prevent attacks on our public employees.

I am in opposition for various reasons, but mainly because it is just another disgusting attempt by an ill-intentioned political faction to ensure issues of culture come before anything that might actually provide real positive change to society as a whole. The real issue here is the people who think they can force others to abide by a small group's ignorant, patriarchal, hate filled, and propaganda fueled far-right ideologies. As I've been following the introduction of these bills across our country and globally, I've seen conspiracy theories, misinformation, and bad actors as the main drivers.

Trans people have always existed, this is indisputable by historical records. We also know LGBTQ people have a long history of being oppressed, or worse, subjugated by authoritarian controlled states. Students of history know that groups, like trans people, are used as scapegoats. They are dehumanized by authoritarian propaganda systems for the purpose of misdirection, and to further entrench the ruling factions' power. Controlling what someone does with their own body isn't freedom, it's authoritarian control.

Instead of further dividing society with bogus issues that have been manufactured with nefarious purposes, please promote tolerance, understanding, and education. Instead of constantly looking at issues through your own personal lens, please look at other people's perspectives. Thank you for taking your time to read this letter. Please support real freedom loving Kansans and oppose this bill.

Thank you,
Bryson Ripley
President of Veterans For Peace Chapter 97
Semper Fidelis

Dr. Caleb Stephens
PRIVATE CITIZEN
drcalebstephens@gmail.com
3/28/1989

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

"Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 63 / HB 2071 with you today. My name is Dr. Caleb Stephens and I am a voter in Douglas County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on SB 63 / HB 2071"

Utilizing gender affirming care has saved the live of countless clients, friends, strangers, and Loved ones.

Thank you for your support in voting no for the passage of SB 63/ HB 2071

Campbell McNorton
Private Citizen
campbellmcnorton@gmail.com
1/28/2025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairperson Gossage and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for taking time to read through my testimony and consider my opinion on the bill. I am writing in opposition to HB 2071.

To begin, I am a young voter in the state of Kansas who loves to live here. I am also a member of the LGBTQ+ community. Growing up here, I have always been proud to be a Kansan, as our state origins promoted a welcoming environment for everyone. However, if HB 2071 were to be implemented, I would have to rethink my future goals of living in Kansas. As the broad language of the bill would allow for discrimination against my present community and potentially, my future children.

Gender-affirming care is life saving care for trans people, especially young trans people in need of affirmation and love. This medically safe practice allows for young people in the state of Kansas to feel safe in their bodies, homes, and schools. Trans youth that do receive gender-affirming care have better futures as they participate better in school, their community, and their family homes. Without this support, they are at a much higher risk for substance abuse, depression and anxiety, and suicide.

Additionally, transgender people are four times more likely to face violent victimization compared to cisgender people. The Human Rights Campaign began studying this violence in 2013 and have found 335 cases in which trans and gender non-conforming people have lost their life due to violence. Over half of these cases took place in the last four years, and 19% of these murders have taken place in Texas and Florida, two states with the worst anti-LGBTQ legislation. This is alarming considering the amount of anti-trans legislation the Kansas legislature has proposed in the last three years.

HB 2071 would take away all access for trans youth to feel like themselves and remove parents, families, and doctors from making the best choices for trans youth. Youth are not making the decision to transition alone and this bill removes a choice that should be made privately by families. Alongside this, 98% of young people who start gender-affirming care in adolescence continue as adults. The reason for this is that gender-affirming care is the only evidence-based means of treating transgender youth with gender dysphoria and is supported by medical and mental health professionals. Bans of gender-affirming care are strongly opposed by medical professionals as it threatens the lives of trans youth.

So, HB 2071 would not protect youth from making a regretful decision, as the decision for care is made with professionals and family members. Simply, the choice to make a private life-saving medical decision would be taken away from Kansans.

Please keep trans people in this state safe. I don't want to have to say goodbye to my friends and community members because my state representative passed discriminatory measures. Trans rights are human rights.

Thank you again for taking the time to read my testimony, and I urge you to vote no of the passage of HB 2071.

Thank you,
Campbell McNorton

Canyen Ashworth
PRIVATE CITIZEN
Canashworth@gmail.com
1/28/0025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 63 / HB 2071 with you today. My name is Canyen Ashworth and I am a voter in Johnson County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on SB 63 / HB 2071"

Not only does this bill unfairly target one of our already most vulnerable populations. It prevents young trans kids from feeling safe, it prevents doctors from doing their jobs, and it written in such a way that leaves open terrifying gaps for authorities to exploit should they feel the need.

I have friends that are transgender. They are loving, good citizens that just want to be left alone. If nothing else, you must consider that bills like this take away a persons liberty, which we as a people have tried to uphold for hundreds of years.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SB 63 / HB 2071. Thank you."

Carine Ullom

From: Carine Ullom <carineullom@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2025 12:30 PM
To: 'health.human.services@house.ks.gov'
Subject: Please vote NO on HB 2071

Greetings Representatives,

As you will surmise from the subject line of my email, I am writing you to urge you – in the strongest possible terms – to vote in OPPOSITION of HB 2071.

Those of you who are members of the Republican Party often tout value the importance of personal liberties and the freedom to make our own choices about what is right for ourselves and our families. Thus, it is difficult for me to understand why this committee seeks to legislate the healthcare needs of trans individuals. Should these decisions not be left to the people and their physicians?

Societal norms shift over time. Not long ago, Black and Caucasian people were not allowed to marry. I'm guessing that now some of you have "interracial" marriages in your families. Similarly, gays and lesbians were formerly closeted and not allowed to marry. Now, I am certain that ALL of you have openly gay or lesbian family members, friends, and colleagues. I trust that you have come to accept and love them for who they are. It would seem that transgenderism is the next frontier for discrimination. Why? Please, allow people to be who they are!

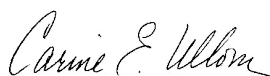
Gender dysphoria has been part of the history of humankind for centuries. Why, then, does it feel like we are seeing more transgender people? Possibly, because it's becoming more normalized and accepted, just as it is to see mixed race children and gay/lesbian couples. Also, we are beginning to realize that human sexuality exists on a spectrum and that there are many expressions thereof, all of which are normal. Or, maybe it's because we have polluted our environment so much (water, air) that we are seeing real changes to human systems. Maybe this is the reason for the rise in autism and ADHD? We just don't know. But to deny people the right to be who they feel within their innermost being they are, is cruel. Medical care for gender dysphoria is evidence-based, medically necessary, and safe. Every major medical association advocates against bills like this. Indeed, a similar bill was defeated last session. Why do you keep bringing this up? It is not a good use of taxpayer dollars to repeatedly try to legislate healthcare.

I have a small handful of friends who are transgender, and I am SO thankful that we now have high-quality treatments available for them. Some I've known "before" and "after" and others only "after", but I have seen first-hand how much happier they are when they can live life as the person they feel they are. All of them are adults who wish they had had the option to make this change much earlier in life. However, I have an immediate family member who was born female. She is 17 now and all her life she has dressed like a boy. Looking back at family pictures, it is clear that she never felt like a "traditional" girl. I don't know if she wants to transition, but, if she does, I want to know that she can receive the care she needs without any repercussions for her, her family, her healthcare providers, or her teachers (attempting to legislate what these people can say sounds like a violation of their rights to free speech).

I urge you to vote NO on this unnecessary, harmful, and potentially unconstitutional bill. You work for the citizens of Kansas, and I believe we and you have much more important business to take care of than attempting to legislate healthcare and restrict free speech.

Thank you for considering my testimony (WRITTEN ONLY) and thank you for your service to the State of Kansas.

Carine Ullom



Ottawa, Kansas

1.26.2025

Re: Testimony in **Opposition** to HB 2071

Dear Rep. Long and the House and Human Services Committee

I am writing in regard to banning gender affirming care for KS minors. Medical professionals consider gender affirming care as life saving for some including mental health care to medical treatments like hormone therapy and surgery. Major healthcare organizations among them, the American Academy of Pediatrics, agree on this care for transgender minors.

Please understand how important this care is to those struggling with suicide.

Less regulation from the government is the goal. Allow PARENTS AND PHYSICIANS to make the necessary medical decisions for a minor's health care not the government (those without knowledge or medical education).

Carla McCormally

Constituent in Overland Park, Johnson County, KS

Cc: Nikki McDonald, Delray Strahm

DATE: January 26, 2025

TO: House Health and Human Services Committee

FROM: Social Justice Team of Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lawrence
1263 N 1100 Rd, Lawrence, KS 66047.
Carol Estes, Chair
allegria88ce@gmail.com
206-476-9128

RE: In OPPOSITION to SB2071, written testimony only

Bombardier

We are writing today to express our strong opposition to SB23. We hold that Kansas patients and their doctors have the right to make difficult medical decisions without the interference of the legislature. The people of Kansas recently demonstrated their strong commitment to this principle in the voting booth, as well as commitment to the general principle of avoiding the intrusion of government into people's private lives.

Gabriel Beard

Threatening medical providers with punishment for providing care that is evidence-based, medically necessary, and safe harms and endangers youth rather than protecting them. It is also dangerously irresponsible to go forward with this policy when every major medical association advocates against such bills.

We know that your goals are to represent and protect the people of Kansas, and we very much appreciate your efforts to do that. This bill, however, is a step in the wrong direction.

Thank you for considering our testimony.

Rachel Heagerty
Carol Estes

KT Enos *M Kelly* *Brian*
Walter *Abel*

Paul Enos *Sam Vinil*

Rev. Dr. Nari *Rob*

Carol Enos
Louise Hanson

Sara E. Ouel *How Teague*

Allen Hanson

Shodde *Rob*

Lynne Bodle

Brian Varvil *Angie*

Maria Jusulmar

Doug Diller *Kathy L. Hagan*

Jeanne Cottrell
Valerie Lopez

Susan Kulick *Clare*

Tori Brun

Rob Bone *Jim Rosen*
Cathy *Heckler*

Jill
Bayer
mm

Alle
Theresa

Earl & Barbara

Martina H. Benkert
Kathy

Bombardier

To: Chairman Carpenter and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services
Regarding: Testimony in Opposition of House Bill 2071, Written Only
Date: January 24, 2025

My name is Casper Lind Filbert, a queer and transgender resident of Wichita Kansas. I am writing this testimony to oppose HB 2071, a bill that would further restrict vital healthcare practices for transgender youth by prohibiting gender-affirming medical procedures.

Well-documented and regulated medical practices (by organizations like the World Professional Association for Transgender Health/WPATH) such as hormone replacement therapy, hormone blockers and gender identity affirming surgical procedures have been life-changing and life-saving for transgender youth for years. Allowing young transgender people access to affirming healthcare has been shown to lower rates of suicide attempt, and many studies have proven the harsh effects on transgender youth growing up without access to necessary care. Documentation or proof of confirmed persistent gender dysphoria is already often required before any treatment is given by providers. Furthermore, requiring ongoing medical care to be reduced or terminated could cause physical harm, not just damage emotionally or to mental health.

Growing up transgender, the support I needed in my younger years included gender-affirming healthcare, and my success and improvement in quality of life is largely due to the ability to live more comfortably as my preferred gender identity. I am just one in so many more cases like mine. Puberty is difficult enough on every young person without the added complexities and turmoil of a gender experience in conflict with someone's assigned gender identity. Less than 1% of transgender people who undergo gender-affirming medical procedures report regret later. These methods of treatment for affirming transgender people are offered because it is proven to do more good than harm.

I am grateful for the right to state my opposition to this bill, and appreciate your time and attention in such a serious matter. I plead with the committee to vote against HB 2071 and leave healthcare decisions to the providers whose responsibility it is to make informed decisions for the well-being and best interest of their patients. Thank you.

-Casper Lind Filbert

Cassandra Dickerson
Regarding HB 2071
January 26th, 2025

My name is Cassandra Dickerson and I am a concerned Kansas mother and former youth mental health case manager. I am testifying about HB 2071. This law about suppressing social transition for youth will actively harm them and does not help them. I fear that this law would overreach and would be in violation of our First Amendment Rights as well.

For 10 years I worked in my local community mental health system as a case manager. I worked with youth and young adults during that time. The last five years of that job I worked with young adults aged 16-23 and had the honor being the case manager for many transgender youth. When the under 18 youth I worked with were supported, even with just a social transition, their mental health improved drastically. According to a peer review study in 2023, Transgender youth with acceptance from at least one adult had 39% lower odds of attempting suicide in the past year compared with their transgender peers who were not accepted. By not honoring a youth's gender identity, you are causing more harm than good. By respecting their chosen pronouns and expression, I was able to show support in a time they maybe didn't have much from others. Ethically and morally, I would not have been a good mental health case manager by not respecting and supporting their gender identity. I am so glad I was able to have the freedom to positively acknowledge their gender identity without any fear of penalty. To not have that freedom, would have been a violation of my First Amendment Right.

Thank you for your time in reading this testimony. Transgender youth's lives matter.

Bill Number: HB 2071

Testimony format: WRITTEN

Indicate disposition: OPPONENT

Name of Conferee: Cat Poland

Private Citizen

My name is Cat Poland. I am a writer, non-profit board chair, church board member, school volunteer, wife, friend, lifelong Kansan and mom to 3 amazing children.

I'm writing to you today to express my deep concern and fear of governmental interference in my family's medical decision making.

My 15 y/o child had an uncommon and potentially life-threatening health condition that is often grossly misunderstood. In fact, only .6% of the American population experiences this condition.

He nearly died from complications of this condition in 2021. We almost lost our baby.

I was distraught. I slept on the hardwood floor right outside the bedroom door weeping and praying for God to help ease his suffering. I felt hopeless and helpless--but hope was not lost.

We found out there's treatment available that could reduce our child's risk of dying by 40%. Of course no medical treatment is risk free, but not acting also held potentially dangerous implications.

We did hours upon hours research, consulted with a variety of doctors and healthcare professionals who knew your child well, and also spoke with other people who shared this condition. Ultimately our child decided it was something they wanted to pursue, and as loving, cautious, caregivers, we decided the potential benefits outweighed the risks.

And, it worked! Our child's health began improving, he was able to attend school regularly again, and even started getting straight A's when he previously had failed nearly every class.

Our child was once again able to IMAGINE a future for himself, happier and healthier than we've seen them in a very, very long time.

Now why on earth would the government want to interfere with this type of treatment? Why would it suddenly become illegal for us to seek the medical care he needs, and that's given us our child back?

Because my son is transgender.

Because his condition is gender dysphoria.

And because the treatment is gender affirming medication.

Abusive--that's what some Kansas lawmakers are calling parents like me who have been fighting like hell to save our children's lives.

The same version of this year's bill, was last year called the "**Forbidding Abusive Child Transitions Act**," and that breaks my heart.

I am not a perfect mother. But I certainly am not an abusive one.

I've been asked if I'm worried that the medication will harm his chances of having children some day. I tell them I'm more worried about having a child alive TODAY. Because if he doesn't live until adulthood, there would be no chance for future grandchildren, whether biological or adopted.

See, my son was in such a state of despair after coming out as transgender, so confused and terrified within his body, that he swallowed a handful of pills and prayed he wouldn't wake up. Thank God he did, but it's been a difficult, terrifying journey.

At the end of 2021, he was actively suicidal, had cuts from self harm covering his body, and was anorexic and bulimic, wasting away before our eyes. He spent a week in inpatient care, then another 6 weeks in a psychiatric residential treatment facility. His entire 7th grade year was an educational loss. *(And if the state is concerned about paying for inexpensive hormones, I can assure you that paying for weeks of inpatient psychiatric care costs the state FAR more, probably around \$50,000+.)*

I don't like disclosing these things about my child to strangers, but you are not just any strangers. You hold power over the decisions he's able to make about his own body, his own health. Decisions that have helped him dig out of the deepest, darkest pit imaginable.

And he has. Praise the Lord, he has.

Through intensive therapy, a supporting, loving family, a wonderful church community, AND gender affirming medication, he's thriving.

He's now a sophomore in high school. He's getting straight As and loves going to class. He recently earned his learner's permit. He's active in drama club, has a part in the school play, and participates in church youth group. He feels much more comfortable in his own body.

He wants to live. My child WANTS to LIVE.

And now, his health, his life, is in your hands. And no offense to you, but it shouldn't be. We, as his parents, should be able to help him make medical decisions that are right for him.

As Attorney General Kris Kobach recently stated in his letter to the Kansas Association of School Boards, parents have a “right to direct the care, upbringing, and education of their children.”

Parents should have the right to decide if their child would benefit from gender affirming medication, NOT the government. Yes, there are potentially harmful side effects as with ANY medical treatment, but for our child, and for the vast majority of transgender individuals, the benefits far outweigh the risks.

I appreciate that Kansas lawmakers want to protect the health of Kansas children, but HB 2071 would cause great harm to young transgender Kansans who are already at greater risk of suicide, self harm, family ostracization, dropping out of school, substance abuse, bullying and violence.

I appreciate your time, and ask you to please oppose HB 2071 and give my family a fighting chance to remain in Kansas, and my child a fighting chance to see 16, 17, 18 and every glorious year beyond.

Sincerely,

Cat Poland

To: Members of the Kansas House Health and Human Services Committee
From: Cathy Anderson, U.S. citizen living in Newton, Kansas
Date: January 23, 2025
Re: **Written-Only Testimony In Opposition to HB 2071 (2025)**

Esteemed Members of the Committee,

I have read the text of the proposed bill. I am concerned that it will infringe on individual rights and liberties and that it will encourage miscreants to harm innocent Kansans. Here are some of the questions that arise in my mind:

- Will a child undergoing treatment for a medically verifiable disorder of sex development be required to have their medical condition made public, so that everyone knows that the adults supporting them are not violating the law?
- What happens to a child receiving medications that are terminated by law on December 31, 2025? What is the remedy if such termination results in physical, psychological, emotional or physiological harms to the child?
- What is the justification for defining gender-affirming medical treatment as professional negligence, when there are well-established standard protocols for it?
- And, my basic question, if family members (parents and child) are in agreement that gender-affirming care is appropriate for the child, why is the state interfering in what should be a private medical decision?

My understanding is that people with gender dysphoria who receive gender affirming surgery are less likely to have suicidal ideation (a 2022 study published in The Journal of Psychosexual Health is here: <https://doi.org/10.1177/26318318231189836>). Prohibiting or postponing treatment increases the likelihood that more young people will choose to kill themselves.

Also, I do know some transgender people—*naturally, none in Kansas*—and have seen some of the bullying they endured for not presenting as masculine or feminine as others thought they should be. There are a lot of bullies out there ready to hurt others; I believe this bill will encourage them to prey even more on innocent people.

Therefore, I urge you to consider again about what “help, not harm” means for all Kansans. I understand the bill protects children against adults who want to coerce them to become a different sex. But, in my view, **the bill does not protect Kansas families** who, with careful thought, love, and sound medical advice, are considering treatment for gender dysphoria in order to help their child.

Cathy Matlack
Private Citizen
cjmatlack@gmail.com
1/28/2025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Dear Chairman and Committee members, thank you for making it possible for me to share my thoughts on SB 63 and HB 2017. My name is Cathy Matlack and I'm a consistent voter in Johnson County. I'm encouraging committee members to vote no on SB63 and HB2017.

I have several friends who are parents of young people who are trans or are struggling to understand their place in our binary world of gender. They need experts to help them navigate their road ahead - medical professionals who are experienced and informed about gender dysphoria. There is no room for politicians in these discussions. It is a private journey that many of us don't understand unless we know and love the young person involved. If you've not had the experience of knowing or hearing about someone who has lived this experience, I encourage you to seek someone out and listen. Please let families and medical professionals help their children or patients according to their unique needs and treatment options.

Thank you again, for considering both sides of this issue and allowing your constituents to find their own path, without political interference from state government. Please vote no on SB 63 and HB 2071.

Thank you.

Charissa Bertels
Private Citizen
charissa.bertels@gmail.com
1/25/2025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 63 / HB 2071 with you today. My name is Charissa Bertels and I am a voter in Riley County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on SB 63 / HB 2071.

As a teacher with transgender students, I can assure you that gender affirming care is life saving care. Parents are doing the best they can to keep their children alive and these decisions are always taken with time and great care in the best interest of the child. These decisions are best left with the parents and child in collaboration with their healthcare provider. This bill discriminates against transgender Kansans and puts public employees at risk. These personal healthcare decisions have no bearing on politicians and they should remain out of the equation. Those with expertise in such matters and all major medical associations advocate against bills of this kind. Please listen to those experts and the actual families and employees this bill would impact and vote no.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SB 63 / HB 2071. Thank you."

Charlie Roberts
Private Citizen
ccroberts2@gmail.com
1/28/0025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my thoughts and the data informing my thoughts related to SB 63 / HB 2071. My name is Charlie Roberts. I am a retired physician who has called Johnson County home for 45 years. My comments are directed at obtaining votes of no. I hope to persuade members leaning towards yes to push the pause, reflect and re-evaluate button. In mid-December I did write a brief guest commentary published in the Kansas City Star and the Wichita Eagle concerning a bill much like SB 63 and HB 2071 to be introduced by Senator Marshall in the US Senate. My thoughts are the same, but there is much more to consider.

Roughly half the states have passed bills banning or greatly restricting gender-affirming care. One such case is currently before the Supreme Court. The Cass Review commissioned by the National Health Service in the UK has been used in many of these cases to support the bills banning gender affirming care. In July, 2024 a white paper "An Evidence-Based Critique of 'The Cass Review' on Gender-affirming Care for Adolescent Gender Dysphoria" was published by the Yale Law School. The authors were MDs and PhDs from across America and one PhD from Australia. Collectively, the authors claimed 86 years of experience with transgender health care and 168 peer reviewed publications related to transgender-affirming care. There is too much to unpack here, but the critique was very critical of the methods and conclusions of the review. The UK's NHS did significantly restrict gender-affirming care based on the review, but the review never recommended banning gender affirming care. Also, a very critical review of the critique was published in the British Medical Journal stating that the critique was just a political publication. Importantly, just in the last 2 weeks the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine published an article, "The Future of Gender-Affirming Care — A Law and Policy Perspective on the Cass Review". The authors had no connection to the evidence-based critique. The article corroborates much of the critique's findings, and in my reading weakens the Cass Review's support for restricting gender-affirming care.

There is one other article that needs attention. Researchers from Harvard's School of Public Health, "Gender-affirming surgeries rarely performed on transgender youth". Looking at breast reduction (gender-affirming) operations in adult transgender and cisgender men, they found 80% of the operations were performed on cisgender men. Within the 15-17 age group, 97% of the breast reductions were in cisgender boys.

I want to again thank the members of the Committee for your patience and for your willingness to listen to my concerns. I hope you, as representatives for the citizens of Kansas, will pause and evaluate the 2 important articles I've brought before you today. I would recommend reading

the Cass Review, but it is a 388 page report. I also hope you will pause and ask yourself what it means to call SB 63 and HB 2071 The Help not Harm Act when the breast reduction operation is only restricted for transgender men/boys and not cisgender men/boys.

Charlie Thiel
Private citizen
charliethiel13@gmail.com
1/28/0025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 63 / HB 2071 with you today. My name is Charlie Thiel and I am a voter in Douglas County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on SB 63 / HB 2071

I believe that gender affirming care is healthcare. I believe that a person has every right to control what happens to their body and find it appalling that it is believed to be any other way. I think that movements to band gender affirming care are afraid of something they do not understand and are not educated enough in specific fields, aka science and psychology to make a decision that can affect so many. I strongly urge the blocking of SB 63 / HB 2071

Thanks you for listening and I encourage you all to vote no, thank you.

Chloe Chaffin
Private Citizen
chloechaffin27@gmail.com
1/28/2025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for taking the time to read my testimony here today. My name is Chloe Chaffin, I am a lifelong Kansan currently residing in Lawrence, and I writing you today to ask that you please vote against SB 63/HB 2071.

This bill is disturbingly over broad and leaves far too much up to interpretation without a clear definition for what it means to “promote” transition. That vagueness can lead to harmful and unequal implementation across the state. It also leaves educators and mental health care providers open to potential legal liability for just doing their job and trying to make kids feel safe, seen, and heard. At a time when our state is losing population in most communities, where we struggle to retain sufficient health care staffing everywhere, and where teachers are being pushed out of the field in droves, I am frustrated that we would not give clearer guidance to the folks who are actually experts on the topic.

Careful policy making can go a long way toward saving the tax payer what will inevitably be millions in court costs as these questions have to get litigated on the back end.

Additionally, every hearing costs time and that is the most precious resource in a short 90 day session. All time spent on this matter, which saw overwhelming opposition turnout during last year’s session, trades off with other priorities that the everyday Kansan actually cares about. I care that I can afford rent, groceries, and my education, not that some child I don’t know is getting to talk to a doctor about their dysphoria. What happens between that patient and their parents and their doctor is none of my business and it is certainly not the state’s either. Kansans value freedom and autonomy, we don’t need the legislature micromanaging. I trust that doctors will know more about the science and evidence based treatments than you or I. The state’s interest end at kids being safe and happy, not with conformity. And this bill is all about conformity at the expense of safety and happiness.

Once more, I ask that you please stand in firm opposition of SB 63/HB 2071. Vote no here today to value good tailored policy, autonomy, and to protect vulnerable kids from more needless and hateful targeting.

CHRISTINA NUDING
PRIVATE CITIZEN
cnuding65@gmail.com
1/28/0025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 63 / HB 2071 with you today. My name is Christina Nuding and I am a voter in Salina, Kansas. I'm writing today to ask you to vote No on SB 63 / HB 2071.

I know several trans people. They all speak of how much easier their transition would have been had they been able to take the correct hormones when they were young, before they went through puberty. We need to trust children, their parents, and our medical community to make those very personal decisions. It is my very strong belief that people be allowed to make their own decisions concerning their bodies. As a parent, I know my child so much better than anyone else does.

Thank you for taking the time today to read my thoughts on this bill, and again I implore you all to vote no on passing SB 63 / HB 2071.

Christine Becker
Private Citizen
Kivrin1978@gmail.com
1/26/2025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and members of the Committee. Thank you for hearing my thoughts on SB 63 / HB 2071. My name is Christine Becker and I'm a voter in Lenexa, Kansas. I am asking you to vote no on SB 63 / HB 2071.

I don't believe government should be blocking citizens from access to affirming healthcare. If only 1% of trans people regret the decision to transition, then you are abusing the other 99%. I believe most of the 1% with regret are more traumatized by the abuse of people who don't understand than their actual decision.

Supporting trans children with access to gender-affirming care, especially hormone therapy, is essential for their ability to thrive in the world and transition more easily. Many trans children experience distress of gender dysphoria, when their physical characteristics do not align with their gender identity. Hormone therapy can alleviate this distress by allowing them to transition in a way that feels authentic to who they are, which significantly improves their ability to make it in this world that is already difficult enough as it is. Without this care, trans children are more likely to face anxiety, depression, and even higher rates of self-harm and suicide due to societal pressures and internal conflicts.

I thank you for the opportunity to give my thoughts on the bill SB 63 / HB 2071 and ask you to vote no on the passage of SB 63 / HB 2071.

Cierra Karson
Private citizen
Cierra.karson@gmail.com
1/28/0025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 63 / HB 2071 with you today. My name is Cierra Karson and I am a voter in Johnson County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on SB 63 / HB 2071

Blocking the passage of SB 63 / HB 2071 in Kansas matters to me because these bills pose a significant threat to the rights and well-being of vulnerable populations. As someone deeply committed to fostering healthy relationships and advocating for equitable treatment, I believe such legislation undermines the progress we've made in creating safe, inclusive environments for all. Protecting access to necessary resources and support systems is essential to ensuring a thriving, compassionate community.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SB 63 / HB 2071.

CJ Johnson
PRIVATE CITIZEN
cj07johnson@gmail.com
1/28/2025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for reading my testimony on SB 63 and HB 2071. My name is CJ Johnson and I am a voter in Douglas County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on SB 63 and HB 2071.

I am the child of conservative parents. When I came out to my parents as nonbinary, they supported me--not because they understood, but because they believe in our inalienable right to self-determination. I oppose this bill for many reasons--it puts unfair pressure and hardship on state employees and it harms children--the chief of them all being that it invades the private lives of citizens. I, like my parents, do not want live under a government that overreaches into the private lives of its citizens and disrespects its own first amendment right to freedom of expression.

Thank you again for hearing my position; I encourage you all to vote no on the passage of SB 63 and HB 2071.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Bill Number: HB 2071

Support: Oppose: X Neutral:

Testimony Will Be Oral In-person: Oral WebEx: Written Only: X

For Meeting On:

Tuesday, January 28th, 2025

Testimony By: Clara L Hampton

On Behalf Of:

Myself

Email Address: claralhampton@gmail.com

Telephone Number: 913-209-1107

Health and Human Services Committee

January 28th, 2025

House Bill 2071

Testimony in Opposition

Health and Human Services Committee:

I am writing to you to express my deepest concern surrounding HB 2071 because of the devastating effects it will have on trans youth, healthcare providers, and the First Amendment right to freedom of speech.

As a person of trans experience and as a social work student working with trans high schoolers in Kansas, I can say for a fact that providing resources for social transition and gender-affirming care helps save the lives of trans kids. As a social work student, having the ability to provide personalized care for trans students is critical to success.

Restricting social transition, as defined in this bill, directly violates healthcare providers' rights to freedom of speech. Going into the field of social work, likely as a state employee, I risk losing my job for pronouns, a flag, or the way I may present my gender. This is unfair to the trans students I serve, as there is documented evidence of both social transition and medical transition drastically improving the quality of life for trans youth. Even a 2017 study found “remarkably good mental health outcomes in socially transitioned children” that contrasted with “overwhelmingly higher rates of anxiety and depression” from previous studies done on youth who did not socially transition (Durwood et al., 2017, p. 120). There is similar supportive evidence for gender-affirming care. In one study finding results after only a year of treatment, they found that “receipt of gender-affirming interventions, specifically puberty blockers or gender-affirming hormones, was associated with 60% lower odds of moderate to severe depressive symptoms and 73% lower odds of self-harm or suicidal thoughts” (Tordoff et al., 2022, p. 7). As a mental health practitioner or a health care provider, it is our job to serve our clients and do what will be best for them. If there was evidence that an intervention decreased the rate of suicide or self-harm in your client by 73%, wouldn't you take that action?

This bill only interferes with professionals' jobs, restricts their rights, and harms their clients. I hope you will agree that the best decisions for a child are made by the family and a medical or mental health professional, not the state government. Join me and oppose HB 2071.

Clara Hampton
28 January 2025

Dear Committee Members:

Please accept these comments on HB 2071. I would like to voice my opposition to this bill which is an attempt to bully a marginalized segment of society. This bill takes away patient-doctor confidentiality. Healthcare decisions should be left to those who know best: the patient and the physician.

I listened once to testimony by trans people at a city council meeting. I was amazed that they just seemed like ordinary Kansans! I was impressed with their testimony and I came away with a totally changed mindset. Trans are just people!

I would like to point out that the age of consent in Kansas is still 16 years of age. This means the State still believes 16-year-olds have the ability to make rational decisions regarding their sexuality. So, if that is the case, the age in SB 63 should be lowered to 16 if you decide to act on it.

Thank you for paying attention to my comments.

Sincerely yours,

Clark H. Coan

Clark H. Coan

Claudia Patrick
Private Citizen
cpatrick9501
1/28/2025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 63 / HB 2071 with you today. My name is Claudia Patrick, and I am a voter in Wyandotte County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on SB 63 / HB 2071.

I can't believe in this day and age parents and DRs are being attacked for making Private, Personal, Medical decisions. I am sure you also value your own privacy and want to protect the privacy of all Kansans. Gender-affirming care is a private issue between the patient, Dr and parents, not legislators. Gender-affirming care is individualized to meet the needs of each patient, managed through a careful and evidence-based model of assessment and informed consent—which is already required by law.

The language of the bill clearly discriminates against transgender Kansans and raises constitutional concerns about state employee's free speech rights.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SB 63 / HB 2071. Thank you.

Claven Snow
Private Citizen
Clavensnow@gmail.com
1/25/2025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me time to share my thoughts on HB 2071 with you today. My name is Claven Snow and I am a voter in Douglas County. I am writing today to encourage the Committee to vote No on House Bill 2071.

The reason I wanted to share my testimony today is that I started my transition in the late 1990s and that wouldn't have been possible without the aid of my physician, Therapists, and several other agencies such as the Passport agency, the Social Security Administration, and the Iowa Bureau of Health and Vital Statistics. That they were able to perform their basic duties of making referrals, evaluating me and signing off on the documentation in accordance with the law was crucial not just to completing my transition, but in allowing them to follow their codes of ethics. This would make it harder for the Kansas worker to follow standard procedures and practices within their jobs and cause them to waste time tracking down individual details to determine whether a person wants a name change or a corrected document wants these certificates because a mistake was made, or simply because a person's identity is not reflected in the original. This House Bill creates a situation where workers have to delve into private topics which are frankly, none of their business, and would waste time and money in the Kansas Workforce.

I urge you to oppose and reject House Bill 2071. Thank you for your time and consideration.

-Claven J. Snow
Douglas County, KS

Committee on Health and Human Services

Kansas House of Representatives

Testimony in Opposition to Kansas HB 2071

My name is Cole Harred, and I am writing this testimony as a transgender person, advocate, and future social worker deeply committed to the rights and well-being of transgender youth in Kansas. I strongly oppose HB 2071, which seeks to restrict or ban access to gender-affirming care.

As a trans person, I have firsthand experience with the challenges of understanding and embracing one's gender identity. Access to gender-affirming care—whether it be mental health support, social transitioning, or medical interventions—is not just a matter of personal authenticity; it is life-saving. It allows trans youth to thrive, reduces the risks of depression and suicide, and provides families with the resources to support their children in living authentically.

It is crucial for lawmakers to understand the reality of gender-affirming care. For minors, the process begins with social transitioning: changing names, hairstyles, and clothing. Medical steps, such as puberty blockers, are only prescribed after careful evaluations by medical experts. These blockers, supported by research from the University of London, are both safe and reversible. They prevent the psychological distress that occurs when a child is forced to undergo puberty in a body that feels alien to them.

Despite common misconceptions, gender-affirming surgeries are not performed on minors. Claims to the contrary are harmful and perpetuate misinformation. This misinformation, along with the unfounded fearmongering about trans individuals in bathrooms, stigmatizes an already vulnerable population. Transgender people are not a threat; instead, we face greater risks of harm and discrimination.

Restricting access to gender-affirming care would devastate trans youth and their families. It would force them to seek care out of state or turn to unregulated and unsafe options. It would also infringe on parents' and guardians' rights to make informed decisions about their child's healthcare. Most importantly, it would increase the rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide in trans youth.

The National Library of Medicine has shown that gender-affirming care reduces suicide attempts among transgender individuals by 73%. These facts are supported by leading medical organizations, including the World Professional Association for Transgender Health and the American Academy of Pediatrics, which affirm that gender-affirming care is essential and effective.

Some argue that minors are too young to make decisions about their gender identity. Yet, those same youth are often making decisions to end their lives because they are denied access to the care they need. Trans adults, who were once trans children, often express the deep trauma caused by being forced to go through puberty in a body that felt wrong. Transgender people have always existed and will always exist—this is not a trend or a phase.

These bills undermine compassion, respect, and autonomy. Rather than stigmatizing and marginalizing trans youth, Kansas should focus on creating an environment where all individuals feel safe, supported, and accepted.

I urge you to reject HB 2071 and stand up for the rights and well-being of transgender youth. Gender-affirming care is not only valid but lifesaving. Let us work together to ensure that all young people in Kansas can thrive.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cole Harred

Advocate for Transgender Rights

COLLEEN CUNNINGHAM
PRIVATE CITIZEN
colleen@demod.com
1/28/2025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to share my perspective on SB 63 / HB 2071 with you today. My name is Colleen Cunningham, and I'm a parent and a voter in Johnson County. I am writing today to encourage committee members to vote NO on SB 63 / HB 2071.

The primary reason for my opposition to this bill is that gender-affirming care is life-saving care. We know that medical care for gender dysphoria is evidence-based, medically necessary, and safe. This is why every major medical association advocates against bills like this. Research shows that more trans and nonbinary teens attempted suicide after states passed anti-trans laws than during the time period prior to the passage of such laws. (Lee, W.Y., Hobbs, J.N., Hobaica, S. et al. State-level anti-transgender laws increase past-year suicide attempts among transgender and non-binary young people in the USA. *Nat Hum Behav* 8, 2096–2106 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-024-01979-5>) The legislature should not be in the business of knowingly putting more children in harm's way. Moving this bill forward will have that effect.

I also oppose this bill because I believe that patients, their families, and their chosen medical provider(s) should have the freedom to make their own private medical decisions, without politicians standing in the way. Gender-affirming care plans are designed to meet the needs of each patient, are reliant on an evidence-based model of assessment, and the informed consent of all involved parties. This is already required by law, and there is no need to change it.

Finally, it seems worth a reminder that this bill already failed last year because it has an extremely broad reach which goes beyond the healthcare space, including enabling attacks on public employees. This bill is overly vague and does not define what "promote," "provide," or "advocate" mean, such that not only will mental and medical health professionals be impacted by this bill, but it also has the potential to disrupt the life-saving work of school counselors, teachers, daycare providers, and so on, if they interact with trans youth. The language of this bill clearly discriminates against transgender Kansans, while also raising constitutional concerns about state employees' rights to free speech.

Once again, I appreciate your time and attention to my perspective about this bill. I encourage you all to vote NO on the passage of SB 63 / HB 2071. Thank you.

TO: Rep. Will Carpenter, Chair
House Committee on Health and Human Services
RE: HB 2071 – Written Only Testimony - Opponent
FR: Connie Brown Collins
Voter Rights Network of Wyandotte County
DT: Jan. 28, 2025

Chairman Carpenter and Members of the Committee:

I'd like to thank the committee for providing this opportunity to share my thoughts on HB 2071. My name is Connie Brown Collins, Founder/Executive Director of Voter Rights Network of Wyandotte County. I live in Wyandotte County, Kansas City, Kansas. Our organization hosts regular informational and educational meetings and events on voting and human rights and other pertinent issues in collaboration with numerous participating organizations and committed individuals, both from Wyandotte and Johnson Counties.

I strongly oppose HB 2071 that would ban Kansans under 18 years old from access to medically necessary health care for gender transitioning by:

- Restricting the use of state funds, including Medicaid, to promote gender transitioning, medically necessary healthcare and prescriptions,
- Prohibiting healthcare providers from providing gender transition for those whose gender identity is inconsistent with the child's sex,
- Authorizing a civil cause of action against healthcare providers for providing such treatments,
- Requiring professional discipline against a healthcare provider who performs such treatment,
- Prohibiting professional liability insurance from covering damages for healthcare providers that provide gender transition treatment to children, and
- Adding any violation of the act to the definition of unprofessional conduct for physicians.

Privacy Concerns

This country was built on freedoms – of speech, assembly, religion, and petition. These same freedoms to make their own private medical decisions should be extended to patients seeking care and their parents and families, in collaboration with their doctors – and not include politicians. Would politicians be involved in decisions about male hormone therapy or surgery for erectile dysfunction? Physicians and other health professionals are trusted messengers that patients rely upon to provide the best information and direction regarding health care outcomes and choices. This bill seeks to destroy and remove the people most likely to provide accurate information. Gender-affirming care has always been individualized to meet the needs of each patient, managed through a careful and evidence-based model of assessment and informed consent — which is already required by law.

Previous Attempts

Last year, this bill failed because of its extremely broad scope beyond the healthcare arena. The bill does not define what it means to “promote,” “provide,” or “advocate” for social transition or gender affirming medical care. These terms, which are open to interpretation, could therefore eliminate services provided by school counselors, teachers, daycare providers, and raise constitutional concerns about these individuals’ First Amendment, free speech rights. The language of the bill clearly discriminates against transgender Kansans and could prevent trans kids from receiving holistic care and needed support – assistance every Kansas kid should be able to freely access.

Medical Necessity for All

Gender-affirming care saves lives. Medical care for gender dysphoria is evidence-based, medically necessary, and safe—which is why every major medical association advocates against bills like this. The medical treatments prohibited under this bill treat various conditions in non-transgender young people, but this bill **only** bans them for trans youth. It undermines the drug formulary process for medication access and seeks to criminalize the caretaker, health professionals and the families of patients.

In conclusion, I urge you to vote against HB 2071 in order to ensure that young trans Kansans receive the medically necessary gender affirming care they need and deserve. Thank you again for providing this opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Brown Collins

Connie Brown Collins
Voter Rights Network of Wyandotte County

Courtland Davis
Private Citizen
myperspectivepics@icloud.com
1/24/2025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Thank you to those who took the time to listen.

I oppose this bill and everything that it stands for!

Thank you again I, and thank you for considering my testimony.

Cristine Roberts
PRIVATE CITIZEN
cristyroberts@hotmail.com
3/25/1953

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairpeople and Members of the Committee, thank you for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 63 /HB 2071. My name is Cristine Roberts and I am a voter in Johnson County. I am writing today to ask you to vote no on these two bills.

I oppose this bill because as a retired pediatric nurse, nursing school assistant professor, and PhD researcher I have some background regarding transgender individuals. I have published several peer-reviewed journal articles (on other pediatric/family topics) and won pediatric nurse researcher of the year from the national Society of Pediatric Nurses.

I had a former nursing student who was assigned male at birth, got married to a woman, was an auto mechanic and grew up in southern Missouri where she would be faced with discrimination and rejection from her family if she revealed she was transgender. At a point in her life she decided to reveal herself and went to a "surgeon" in central Missouri who operated out of a hotel room. The doctor removed her penis and left. She continued to bleed until she had to seek urgent medical care. Shortly thereafter, when she was able, she decided to enroll in nursing school at UMKC where I taught. She told me her secret and at that time she presented as a tall attractive young woman. I couldn't believe she formerly had a male body. She had many struggles and encouraged me to read about gender changes. I read about the twin boys in the 1960s in Canada in which one was assigned female because of a poor circumcision outcome. They were treated by Dr Money and became a science experiment for the doctors involved. Their mental health outcome was poor during and after they discovered they had been lied to much of their early lives. Luckily, my student went on to graduate and had much hope for her future.

I am also the grandmother of a child who was assigned male at birth based on genitalia, but my grandchild expressed as early as 2.5 years old and started telling people outside of their family by the age of 3 that they were not a boy. I had told my daughter (I taught growth and development) that gender identity may not be stable until about 4 years old and not to worry. (At this point it is important to remember that gender is a social construct and sex is usually related to external genitalia. I will use "they/them" pronouns as 'they' state they are nonbinary - what we used to call androgynous.) These parents were surprised when the daycare told them that their child told the other toddlers they weren't a boy. There is no one that encouraged this and they were not exposed to anything that would make them reject their gender assignment. Their parents were happy to have a little boy. That Halloween, they wanted to be a female character. This child is now 10 and lives in a state where any transgender care is illegal. They don't want

surgery and they aren't even sure they want hormone blockers or hormone treatments down the road. But they want to be able to look like a girl because they state that is an easier to be nonbinary and look like a girl. They do get some bullying at school and it makes them upset at times. This child is in the gifted program and the teachers are great. They allow them to go to the bathroom in an individual bathroom. Last year they received the Empathy award and this year the Terrific student award for their class.

Also from a scientific worldview, gender and sexual non-conformity is not new. In Biblical times, Jesus said "For there are eunuchs who were born that way, and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men, and there are also eunuchs who made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven" in Matthew 19:12. We took care of "transsexual" patients at KU med center when I was there in the 1970s. It is estimated that genital abnormalities occur in 1 out of every 4500 babies born. these include children born with only 1 X sex chromosome (Turner syndrome), 3 sex chromosomes XXY (Klinefelter), and mixed gonadal dysgenesis. To say that there are only 2 sexes, is uninformed.

I urge you to leave gender issues to those who have advanced health degrees in the care of children. Thank you for listening to my stories and for voting "no" on the passage of SB 63/HB 2071.

Cristine Roberts, RN PhD

Cynda Woolard
PRIVATE CITIZEN
cynda.woolard@gmail.com
1/28/0025

For both SB 63 and HB 2071
Opponent
Written only

Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for giving me the time to share my thoughts on SB 63 / HB 2071 with you today. My name is Cynda Woolard and I am a voter in Johnson County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SB 63/HB 2071.

As a Mother, Educator, and Caring Citizen, I adamantly oppose a bill that does not define what it means to “promote,” “provide,” or “advocate” for social transition or gender affirming medical care. This bill will impact mental and medical health professionals, as well as prevent school counselors and teachers who support our Youth. The language of the bill clearly discriminates against transgender Kansans and raises constitutional concerns about state employee's free speech rights. Further, this bill already failed last year because of the overreach of medical professionals.

Gender Affirming Care is life-saving for our youth. Suicide rates are high already, denying people care will only make those numbers grow. Politicians should not have the power to make blanket decisions for everybody. It's a gross overreach of power. Our youth deserve to have support, no matter how they identify.

Again, thank you for hearing my thoughts on this bill. I ask that you listen to your constituents and vote no on the passage of SB 63 / HB 2071. Thank you.