

Opponent Testimony of SB 76
For the Senate Education Committee
February 10, 2025
Alexandria Schneider

Applications Analyst for Admissions, Information Technology Services of Washburn University

Chair Erickson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony against Senate Bill 76. This bill is severely lacking in clarity and comprehensiveness, especially as it pertains to postsecondary educational institutions, and would result in superfluous time and effort on the part of school employees to ensure compliance.

This bill contains no guidance on how institutions should comply with this legislation. Are universities now required to collect and store a copy of the birth certificate of all minor students, to ensure record of their birth name and biological sex? Would this document need to be made accessible by all university employees, regardless of their appointed position? Surely this alone is a violation of a student's right to privacy.

Additionally, this bill fails to address how the name and pronouns of a student should be determined if they do not have a United States birth certificate, such as students attending a Kansas school on an F-1 visa. What document should be used in place of the birth certificate? Is the F-1 visa acceptable? Who determines what documents are acceptable? Would this differ based on the student's home country? Who interprets a document written in a language other than English? Would this document also need to be made accessible by all school employees?

This bill also lacks clarity on the legality of school employees' use of students' nicknames or shortened versions of their names. If I were a student, would it be a violation for a teacher to call me the gender-neutral but more often masculine "Alex?" Would this bill coerce a teacher into calling me "Alexandria" out of fear of being sued? Who determines if my shortened name is an acceptable derivative of my full name? Who draws the line between a derivative name and a name that requires a parent's permission?

Please oppose SB 76 and any other legislation that frivolously polices the language of our state's educators.

Sincerely,

Alexandria Schneider