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Written Neutral Testimony

SB 208 – Creating the fairness in women’s sports act; restricting participation on women’s teams to female students

Presented to the Senate Education Committee

Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2021

By

Deena Horst and Ben Jones, Legislative Liaisons
Kansas State Board of Education

Madam Chairperson Baumgardner, Vice Chairperson Erickson, Ranking Minority Sykes and Committee Members:

SB 208 cites a number of studies and case law to support the premise of the bill that for there to be fairness to female athletes, participation on women’s teams must be limited to biological female students.

Thank you for giving us an opportunity to share some thoughts regarding SB 208. The Legislative Priorities passed by the Kansas State Board of Education did not include this specific subject and as a result we are submitting neutral testimony, and because such decisions are the responsibilities of the Kansas State High School Activities Association Board.

While the issue addressed by the bill may need to be addressed, we feel the appropriate body to address this concern is the one which is charged with governance of high school activities ... the Kansas State High School Activities Association Board. We would suggest you contact KSHSAA and appear before them to express your concern and share this bill. While they have no jurisdiction over the postsecondary level, they do have jurisdiction over Middle and High School Sports. The Executive Committee will next meet March 24th and 25th. The Board of Directors will next meet in April. We urge you to contact the KSHSAA staff in order to schedule a time to share your concerns with the appropriate Board(s).

Thank you again for considering our statements regarding SB 208.