



February 13, 2023; 1:30 pm
House Committee on Education
Rep. Adam Thomas, Chair

Michael Poppa
Executive Director
Mainstream Coalition

Opponent, Oral In-Person Testimony

HB2238 – Creating the "fairness in women's sports" act to require that female student athletic teams only include members who are biologically female.

Chair Thomas and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony on HB2238.

Year after year, many members of the Kansas Legislature have championed bogus "nondiscrimination" bills that seek to "protect" the gun industry, individuals who willfully place other community members at increased risk of contracting potentially deadly viruses, and colleagues who prescribe dangerous and unauthorized drug therapies. All while perpetuating disinformation; championing multiple voter suppression bills, and thinly veiled attempts to undermine education professionals under the guise of and "parents' rights." Now here we are, once again, with an attack on Kansas children.

The original requester of this bill, and those who would support it, espouse harmful rhetoric handed down by outside interests and national think tanks. They claim HB2238 ensures "fairness and opportunities for women competing in sports." It has been insisted by supporters of this bill that they are concerned with our children's mental, emotional, and physical health. But it seems that there is more concern with scoring political points than protecting vulnerable children and families.

LGBTQ youth are [twice as likely to attempt suicide](#)¹ than their straight/cisgender peers. Transgender and gender nonconforming children and adults are [more likely to be bullied](#)²,

¹ <https://www.nami.org/Your-Journey/Identity-and-Cultural-Dimensions/LGBTQI>

²

<https://www.hrc.org/news/new-cdc-data-shows-lgbtq-youth-are-more-likely-to-be-bullied-than-straight-cisgender-youth>

attacked and murdered. According to the [Human Rights Campaign](#)³ and [Forbes](#)⁴, 2021 was the deadliest year on record for transgender and gender nonconforming people with at least 375 violent murders reported.

A vote in favor of HB2238 is a clear message to transgender children and my entire community that we do not matter. It is an attempt to shove us back into the proverbial closet so that straight cisgender people feel more comfortable. HB2238 is designed to erase the most vulnerable among us.

When taking office, you swore a solemn oath to the people of Kansas to faithfully discharge the duties of your elected position. Please find the heart, empathy, and courage to protect all of your constituents.

I urge you to oppose HB2238.

³

<https://www.hrc.org/resources/fatal-violence-against-the-transgender-and-gender-non-conforming-community-in-2021>

⁴

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jamiewareham/2021/11/11/375-transgender-people-murdered-in-2021-deadliest-year-since-records-began/?sh=6427adca321c>