

Testimony in Opposition to HB 2238
House Committee on Education, Rep. Adam Thomas, Chair
February 13, 2023

Dear Mr. Chairman, members of the committee,

My name is Rev. Lorraine Cenicerros, Conference Minister of the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference, United Church of Christ, and a resident of Junction City. I am writing to you as the leader of a broad faith community in Kansas that holds sacred the dignity of all life. I urge you to please oppose HB2238, one of the most recent attacks on transgender children. This bill bans kids from playing sports with their friends and others their age.

I serve a broad faith community in the state of Kansas that has as members trans and non-binary children, youth, and their parents. Parents in our conference are striving to help their children grow into the healthiest version of themselves. These are children of God who deserve to live life abundantly. HB2238 will stop children from participating in the opportunities that allow them to thrive and participate in their communities. This bill singles out one group of children and forbids them from playing with their friends simply because they are different.

I don't want to have to comfort another parent whose child was lost due to this discriminatory and hate-filled bill. Our children and youth in Kansas deserve to *know* they are loved and protected by adults and leaders outside of their families.

This bill is based on skewed information and outdated science. It lacks compassion for our fellow Kansans. I urge you to oppose HB2238 and any other bill that harms trans children.

Sincerely,
Rev. Lorraine Cenicerros
Conference Minister, Kansas Oklahoma Conference United Church of Christ
Junction City, KS