

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

Amber Dodson  
Kansas Resident

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

**Opponent, Written Only**

Chair Thomas and Members of the Committee,

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

My name is Amber Dodson. I am a Kansas Resident from Wichita. I am a new mother and also the sister to a transgender brother. My brother's name is Jamie Black. The purpose of my testimony is to emphasize how these bills are detrimental to our youth. How these bills create a feeling of exclusion in kids that deserve the chance to participate fully in their communities and schools.

Jamie came out as transgender when he was 14. He was a freshman at Derby High School. Before coming out, Jamie experienced the typical coming of age struggle of finding out who he was and who he wanted to be. When he came out, it was obvious that Jamie had finally realized who he was and was so happy to be his true self. However that came with a new struggle of feeling excluded and worried of how people felt about him being transgender. As a cisgender woman, I can't understand this struggle. I could sympathize but I would never truly know how this impacted him. In September of 2020, Jamie passed away from a fentanyl drug overdose. We don't know if this was intentional. And no one wants to think of their loved one intentionally taking their lives. However, Jamie struggled with depression and anxiety. He struggled with not being accepted. When bills like 2238 are proposed, it causes a feeling of fear and exclusion for kids like my brother. Like many others, Jamie used drugs to numb that feeling. We need to stop proposing bills that cause others to feel excluded, especially our youth.

I am asking the committee members to stop and think of the harm that these bills cause to the young, impressionable youth. I am also asking that the committee vote no to this bill as a way to show our youth that we want them to feel included and loved. That they are able to have the same chance to participate in their communities and schools as all of their peers, regardless of their identity. Thank you for your time and reading my testimony.

Amber Dodson