

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

Samantha Lewis  
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.

Hello my name is Sami Lewis and I am a born and raised Kansan. I serve our Wichita community as a Marriage and Family Therapist. I work with many individuals and families that LGBTQIA+ rights impact. I believe that individuals should have the right to participate in activities that match their gender identity.

I have a Trans-male sibling that often went through hardship during our school years and continues to face hardship as an adult, and being a witness to this has solidified my desire to be an advocate. Seeing the impacts on my brother and the youth I currently serve is astounding. This generation of youth has a higher awareness and understanding of how to break societal 'norms' that have misguided our narratives. The general frustration from older generations is it is "too hard" to expand their thought process beyond the binary that we have grown to be accustomed to. As many opportunities for growth come with discomfort, this is no different and perhaps one of the more important discomforts for us to experience as a society. This particular issue is very similar to the argument for racial equality as every ethnicity is biologically 'built different.' If we were to attempt to separate biological differences for gender we would have to do the same for ethnicity, and that is an absolute step backwards in our society.

There truly is no other suggestion other than to allow people to make their own decisions within their gender identity. The suggestion is for those who still do not understand and/or feel uncomfortable to educate themselves and to learn how to regulate their own discomfort.

My position will always remain to be allowing people to make their decisions for gender identity, and to allow them to join activities that match their gender identity. I appreciate you reading my submission. I am truly hoping the state I have been raised in will make the future thinking decision, rather than allowing Kansas to continue being 'the state that lives 30 years behind.'