

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

Kelly Stromberg  
Parent, 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 Kelly Stromberg, I am a wife, mother, small business owner, and Kansan. I am writing today to oppose HB2238.

I oppose this bill because I know that it will cause both cis and trans gendered girls to not participate in sports for fear that adults will be too preoccupied by what their genitalia looks like. Many children are victims of sexual assault, most of them do not speak of it during their childhoods and oftentimes into adulthood. Sports are a way for kids to reclaim their bodies as their own, they are a way to learn to trust people and work together as a team. Participation in sports brings a sense of belonging to kids who might not otherwise feel they belong. By bringing focus to genitalia, this will keep both cis and trans gendered girls who have experienced trauma or body dysmorphia too scared to participate. I remember when I was younger I had panic attacks at the idea of showering at school after gym class. I know I would not have been able to join any sport where the adults were interested in what my genitalia looked like. Please do not force kids today to disclose to adults what they look like with no clothes on.

Let girls, both cis and transgendered, play sports. Let them be children and get the physical and mental health benefits of playing sports. Let the focus of sports be the game play, the camaraderie of being on a team, the athleticism, and the teamwork. Let them be kids and let them play.

Please reject HB2238. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of my testimony.