

House Education Committee
March 19, 2023
Proponent Oral and Written Testimony for HB 2477

Chairman Thomas and House Education Committee,

Thank you for hearing about this critical issue of safety for our public school students. I urge your support because though it seems common sense that biological boys and biological girls should not share hotel rooms on public school sanctioned/sponsored trips, this very situation has already happened. On a school sanctioned spring break trip out of the country, my daughter witnessed her friend (a biological girl) being forced to share a hotel room with a transgender student who was a biological boy. To say that her friend was traumatized would be an understatement. This girl had worked for two years to save enough money to pay for this trip of a lifetime and it turned into a nightmare. She was given no choice to switch rooms and had to sleep and shower in a room with a student of the opposite sex. This is not safe physically, mentally or emotionally and she will carry the scars of that trip with her for the rest of her life.

If a state-wide bill is not passed, this tragic situation will happen again and again, with possibly even worse outcomes. Please don't wait for a student to be raped on a school sanctioned trip to pass legislation such as this bill. It protects all public school students in Kansas, and that is something we all should agree on: the safety of children.

Sincerely,
Heather Whalen
House District #42