



February 15, 2023

**Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
Kansas State Legislature**

Testimony in Favor of Senate Bill 180 (Women's Bill of Rights)

My name is Lauren Adams Bone and I am testifying today on behalf of the Women's Liberation Front (also called WoLF), the only nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c)(3) radical feminist organization. WoLF's mission is to restore, protect, and advance the rights of women and girls, and we wholeheartedly urge you to vote for Senate Bill 180 (SB 180), The Women's Bill of Rights.

Recognition of sex as an objective characteristic by law- and policy-makers is foundational to ensuring that women and girls have equal access to public life. There are factual reasons why the sexes are allowed by law to be treated differently in certain situations: differences in physical abilities; unequal reproductive burdens; risk of violent crime perpetration (men commit 90+% of violent crime including rape and homicide). All three of those are relevant to the need for single-sex spaces, and none change because a man identifies as a woman.

The Women's Bill of Rights would ensure that any debate about male access to women's spaces absolutely must officially acknowledge their sex - that they be identified, in aggregate, as factually male. The only argument against it is that it may offend his personal sensibilities, but that is no argument at all, especially not when compared to the safety of women and girls. The verbal stumbling around women are forced to do in advocating for themselves, or lawmakers when advocating for women, is demoralizing and puts them at a disadvantage, as they

find themselves arguing that a certain type of “female” ought to be separated from other females.

For example: WoLF is representing four incarcerated women in California challenging its self-ID law. Dozens and dozens of men, most serving long sentences for serious violent crimes, have been transferred to the women’s prison, one-third of them sex offenders according to the state. Hundreds more have requested transfers. One of our plaintiffs, Krystal Gonzalez, was groped by one of the men who transferred over, and he rubbed his penis on her. She filed a grievance with the prison requesting to be housed in a single-sex facility away from any male offenders. In the prison’s response, they described her as fearing assault by a “transgender woman with a penis.” The state has still never acknowledged that this male sex offender with a penis is even “biologically” male. Krystal is not legally required to pretend he is female, but the state continues to posture as if she is harming him or doing something distasteful by reporting it the way she has. The state denies this allegation in their briefing, while also stating that Krystal was “willfully misgendering” the “transgender woman.”

This is absurd. It is absurd for anybody to have to say these things, but to put a sexual assault victim in this position is not only unconscionable, but it’s bizarre. Women’s Bill of Rights can be a powerful tool to prevent anything like that from happening in Kansas, and to halt any similar situations that are not quite as perverse as that one.

The Women’s Bill of Rights will also help preserve the accurate collection of vital statistics, supporting the ongoing efforts to achieve parity between men and women and, again, protecting women’s safety. Not only health data occupational safety data, etc. that is critical to their health, but crime statistics have a major impact as well. Without accurate recording of sex and crime data, Biden’s Bureau of Prisons would not have made some startling discoveries this year. In their annual report required by the Prison Rape Elimination Act, they found - because they track sex - that while “transgender status” is correlated with a heightened risk of victimization, it is also correlated with a heightened risk of perpetration of sexual assault and harassment of men in men’s prisons.

Without accurate tracking of sex data properly identifying them as male, Biden’s Bureau of Prisons also would not have been able to report that 48% of trans-identified men in the federal system are sex offenders, or that nearly all trans-identified victims of sexual assault are convicted sex offenders, raising questions as

to whether “transgender status” is even a causative factor of their heightened rate of victimization.

While these statistics are not specific to Kansas, they demonstrate the stakes here. You must preserve and protect data of all kinds.

We urge you to think beyond conventions of what is “kind” and “not kind” and really examine the practical realities of what our society is continuing to move toward. The Women’s Bill of Rights can make a difference here and bring Kansas ahead to lead the pack. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to testify on this important issue; more importantly, thank you for giving consideration to this important bill.

Sincerely,

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