



**Taryn Jones, Equality Kansas Lobbyist
Testimony in Opposition of SB 180
Senate Public Health and Welfare
Hearing date – February 14th, 2023, 8:30**

Dear Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee members,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak today. My name is Taryn Jones, and I am one of the lobbyists for Equality Kansas. I am here to testify in opposition to SB 180.

In SB 180 the bill states that “biological differences between the sexes mean that male individuals are, on average bigger, stronger, and faster than female individuals.” As a woman I find this highly offensive. There are many female athletes who are stronger than male athletes. I feel in this bill and others like it there is this idea of ‘fairness’ and an equal playing field especially in sports, but the truth is sports can never be an equal playing field. My cisgender female cousin is six feet tall, should she not be able to play sports because this will give her an advantage over other women who are on average shorter than her? We are all built differently regardless of gender. The truth is sometimes that gives us advantages over others.

SB 180 also erases people who are intersex. Planned Parenthood defines intersex as “a general term used for a variety of different situations in which a person is born with reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn’t fit in the boxes of female or male.” I know it’s convenient for sponsors of this bill to act like there are only two sexes, but scientifically that is incorrect. There are millions of people who don’t fit into the binary male or female sex. According to Amnesty International experts believe that almost 2% of the general population is intersex. This means that you

likely know an intersex person. Discriminatory bills like this not only harm people in the trans community, but they also harm intersex people. Like people who are trans, people who are intersex are just trying to live their lives like anyone else would.

SB 180 is blatant discrimination of the trans and intersex communities. While I am not trans or intersex, I can say that standing up here day after day listening to members of my community get attacked is soul sucking and gut wrenching. I can't even begin to imagine how this feels for them. I can't imagine getting up every day and hearing legislators say hateful things about them just for existing. It's no wonder that 45% of young LGBTQ youth have considered suicide.

This is why I am asking you to vote no on SB 180