Chair Baumgardner and committee,

I am Representative Stephanie Byers and I stand as an Opponent to SB 484

What is it like to be a transgender woman or girl in today's environment? You receive messages like this (and I quote) “Stop appropriating and making a mockery of womanhood, you fat, useless fuck.” As an elected, I expect this. But for a kid? How detrimental is something like this to their mental health? Bullying takes its toll.

According to bullying.org:

“Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Both kids who are bullied and who bully others may have serious, lasting problems.

In order to be considered bullying, the behavior must be aggressive and include:

- **An Imbalance of Power:** Bullies use their power—such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, position, or popularity—to control or harm others. Power imbalances can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people.
- **Repetition:** Bullying behaviors happen more than once or have the potential to happen more than once.”

How does this definition fit with the bill you’re currently having a hearing on? Is there a perceived imbalance of power? Is this repeated behavior? – and from my place of seeing this – that answer is an unequivocal “Yes”.

There’s no new argument for this. There wasn’t a new argument for this last year. This bill is based on fear and the basic idea that trans girls aren’t really girls. The originators of this bill – wherever they may actually be (since the wording for this bill has shown up all across the country, I doubt it was started in Kansas) don’t even have the courtesy of naming their actual target – trans girls. Who do you define as a “biological male”? How do you arrive at that definition? Do you even know for sure what your biology says about you?

At the end of the day, human beings exist in relationships with each other. In taking your stance on this nonexistent problem, have you opened or closed a door on discussion with your child or grandchild? My point being is that my parents didn’t know about me until I was fifty years old. That’s a long time to walk alone in the dark without a parental hand to hold. Are you putting your kids or grandkids into that same, dark closet because of the unsurety created by the actions of the State of Kansas.

None of this stops someone from being transgender. This continued emotional exhaustion of trying to keep who you are secret or hidden, creates stress, creates depression, creates the dark thoughts about whether or not you should exist in a world that seems to not want you. All of this then can lead to a child deciding they don’t deserve to live. Transgender children are 5 times more likely to try to take their own lives.

None of this needs to take a jump to the left or a step to the right. There is no reason to put our hands on our hips or draw our knees in tight. Why are we trying to do this “Time Warp” again? Position of Power… Repeated Behavior? I oppose SB 484. Trans Girls are REAL girls. Don’t continue to bully trans kids.