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BRANDON WOODARD
30TH DISTRICT

Opposition Testimony
Senate Committee on Education
Senate Bill 484
March 7, 2022

Chairperson Baumgardner, Vice-Chair Erickson, Ranking Member Sykes, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **testimony in opposition to SB 484**: “Enacting the fairness in women's sports act to require that student athletic teams only include members who are of the same biological sex unless designated as coed.”

Well, here we go again. This legislation is just one more bill in a series of attacks on our trans neighbors. In recent years, we have seen attempts to ban trans individuals from the military, regulate their bathroom usage, refuse business in the name of so-called “religious freedom,” and now exclude them from the sports field. ***Let us be clear; this bill is not about sports; it is about attacking young transgender Kansans.***

An attack on children in the State of Kansas, especially LGBTQ children, attacks everyone in the LGBTQ community. To the trans kids listening: I see you, I believe in you and know that you bring value and purpose to our state. Bullying children is wrong, and I will never stop fighting for you.

Beyond the moral reasons to oppose this bill, this legislation is dangerous, puts a target on the backs of already-vulnerable students, and will negatively impact the image of Kansas throughout the country. SB 484 would open our state to endless litigation and risks out-of-state teams refusing to play our Kansas athletes.

Many of my colleagues in this building often wonder why young people leave our state in record numbers. ***It is because of backward policies, like this bill, that is a solution in search of a problem that my generation has left and never looks back.***

I urge the committee to choose an inclusive and welcoming Kansas for all, not just those you deem acceptable. **I ask you to vote NO on SB 484** and will stand for questions at the appropriate time. Thank you for your time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandon Woodard".

Rep. Brandon Woodard
District 30 | Lenexa and Olathe