

Taryn Jones, Equality Kansas Lobbyist House Education Testimony in Opposition of HB 2427 Hearing date – March 22nd, 2023, 1:30

Dear House Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to speak today. I am here in opposition of HB 2427. Like many of the other LGBTQ bills that have come through the legislature, this appears to be a solution in search of a problem. Have there have been any complaints about this by Kansas students or parents? There seems to be a running theme in proponent testimony that all the people testifying are from out state. If this is a problem in our own state surely there would be people jumping at the chance to testify for this bill. The fact that there aren't leads me to believe that this isn't a problem in Kansas.

Like SB 180 and HB 2238 this bill tries to define sex as only male or female. This simply isn't true. We've heard time and time again about how this not only discriminates against the trans community, but it erases the intersex community. The hard truth is that sex isn't binary. What is the solution for intersex children? I can tell you what it shouldn't be. As a disabled person myself we shouldn't be classifying an entire group of already marginalized people as disabled just so we can discriminate against another marginalized group of people. I am not ashamed of being disabled but it does come with lots of barriers and hardships. I want you to think not only about how you would make sure that the intersex community is being included but also how making that inclusion will affect their lives.

For these reasons I am asking you to vote no on HB 2427. Thank you for your time and I will stand for any questions.

Taryn Jones