

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Al Frisby

KS resident and retired Merriam city councilmember

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

Thank you for allowing me to express my opinions on this particular bill. Too often residents in Kansas who are not like you or me suffer from discrimination. As a city councilman in Merriam for 8 years, I carried a NDO to the full council...and it passed with 100%

I worked diligently to protect LGBTQ+ individuals in Merriam from discrimination in housing and the work place. Why? Because when I was 16 I witnessed discrimination of good friends in high school. To this day, as a 76 year old citizen, I see discrimination frequently in every day life circumstances. This Senate Bill 180 discriminates against people who are one gender but are guided by their brain's responses that does not match their gender. We all know someone that was confused about their gender in early in life and then took a stance and bravely navigated to a life of respect and acceptance. Don't take that away.

In our society when I was 16, folks did not accept people who were different. Now, that is changing. I also would like to mention that every year children are born with ambiguous genitalia. I can't imagine that physical confusion as it would affect a small child negatively. Biological sex is now complicated. This SB 180 assumes no confusion...mental or physical. This bill discriminates against those who must find their way through our society...why make it harder for them to navigate?

If this bill becomes law, I believe lawyers will challenge the legality of the premise. Please do NOT pass this bill into law...many KS residents would be devastated and turn to suicide. I thank you for this opportunity to describe my intentions to oppose this bill.

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Alanna Carrell

Kansas Resident/Parent

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

I am a 38year old Trans Woman that has lived in the state of Kansas for all of those years. I have raised 2 wonderful children and have been married for 19years. I strongly oppose this legislation.

The legislation proposed is discriminatory against a whole community of transgender people. If this bills passes it will essentially erase Transgender people who call Kansas home. If this bill passes it will make the existence of being transgender in public unbearable. I was raised in a very Christian household and still believe in the word of God. One of the teaching from the Bible is "Love thy neighbor" ask yourself does this legislation follow that teaching? The answer is no. SB180's intention is hate and pain for an already marginalized group.

Please be strong and vote no on sb180. It is an unnecessary and disgusting attempt to gain political favor that will end in costing many lives and your eternal soul.

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Alice Capson

Kansas Citizen

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

I am writing to voice my opposition to bill SB 180. This bill is unnecessary as well as discriminatory for transgender people. I also have a friend whose grandchild is gender non-conforming, a creative, loving child. This child should be discriminated against by the state of Kansas!

We do not need a bill that will open the door for more discriminatory legislation! This bill is, in part, trying to solve a problem that doesn't exist regarding transgender females participating in girls' sports. In addition, all people, including LGBTQ and especially transgender people, should be able to live openly without discrimination and enjoy equal rights, personal autonomy, and freedom of expression and association.

I want to live in a state that doesn't pass a bill such as this which is based on hate and fear of the "other."

People who are different re gender have been around for centuries. You cannot and should not try to erase their existence with this law because they will still be here.

Please vote NO on bill SB 180

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Amy Hinrichs

Kansas Resident

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

My name is Amy Hinrichs, and I have been a Kansas resident for 50 years. I oppose SB180.

This issue is important to me because I believe all the purpose of a law is to better our lives and communities. Whether is it the intended purpose of the bill or not, this bill causes harm.

By defining biological sex by the ability to procreate excludes transgender individuals from accessing sex segregated public spaces such as bathrooms, domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers and more. This does not improve or better the lives of transgender Kansans. In fact, it is detrimental to them. in a study from the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law, transgender people are over four times more likely than cisgender people to experience violent victimization, including rape, sexual assault, and aggravated or simple assault. When you tell someone that is being abused and/or has been raped that they can't seek help from an organization because their body parts don't align with someone's definition in Topeka, that tells all the trans people in Kansas that we don't care about them.

Again, I ask you to oppose SB180. Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony.

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Ann Norbury

Grandparent

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

I'm a church-going Christian and I believe we should support ALL people.

I personally know a transgender individual and I do not want to see any type of discrimination in our state.

No legislation should focus on biological sex at birth. How would this be applied? Would it require genital inspection? How creepy! Would it require all citizens to carry their birth certificate? This issue does not require legislation.

Please vote NO on SB 180.

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Avis Smith

Kansas Resident

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

I am a Kansan and also a member of St.Andrew Christian Church. I and the members of our congregation strongly oppose all bills that discriminate against trans youth and adults.

I have trans members in my church and friends in my community that this bill will directly harm. Life for trans people is already filled with extraordinary challenge and this bill makes it even harder for them to navigate their lives. Kansas should be a place where everyone feels safe and welcomed. Trans people are NOT a danger to cis-gender people.

Please, please drop the culture war bills and focus on bills that will help all Kansans (expansion of Medicaid, Special Education funds, early childhood education, etc.)

The vast majority of Kansans are pro LGBTQ+. Please STOP creating and passing bills that discriminate against the trans and LGBTQ+ community. Focus on bills that will help all Kansans (Medicaid expansion, early childhood education, etc.) Thank you.



Central States Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

March 6, 2023

Committee of Public Health and Welfare
Kansas Senate

Dear Committee Members:

My name is the Rev. Susan Candea. I have been an ordained minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for almost forty years and currently serve as the bishop of the Central States Synod of the ELCA, overseeing the ministry of 150 congregations and other ministries across Kansas and Missouri. I am writing because I strongly oppose Senate Bill 180. While the title of the bill is “establishing the women’s rights bill,” from my perspective this is about imposing a narrow definition of gender identity on to all individuals regardless of their own understandings of themselves. We do not have the right to do that. Medical science has helped us to understand that gender identity is much more fluid that has been acknowledged in the past. As a faith community, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, both recognizes and respects non-binary gender identities. Recognizing the diversity of humanity, which should not surprise us given the diversity of the world we live in, does not impose limitations or unfairness on those who do in fact identify in binary categories. Rather it supports us to be a more compassionate, respectful, and just society where all individuals are valued.

I urge you therefore to reframe the narrative away from the rights of a few vocal voices to impose their reality on others and toward bills and actions that truly protect the rights of all people, regardless of their gender identity. Thank you for your consideration and careful action in this matter.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Susan Candea, Bishop

God's work. Our hands.

420 W 14th St., Suite 101 • Kansas City, MO 64105 • 913.948.9701 • 866.915.3548 (toll-free) • www.css-elca.org

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Carolyn Finken-Dove

Parent/Grandparent

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

My name is Carolyn Finken-Dove. I am a member of PFLAG-KC, but am addressing you primarily as a parent and as a friend to many wonderful people I have met in the LGBTQ+ community. My daughter came out 23 years ago, and at that time I confess to being largely uneducated about what “gay” or “transgender” meant. I believe some of you may share that lack of knowledge.

This bill essentially erases intersex and transgender people and I cannot allow that to happen without protest. One thing I have learned over the past 23 years is that being transgender is real, transgender people absolutely exist, transgender women ARE women and transgender men ARE men and should be treated with respect and the same courtesy we should afford everyone. I have known and count among my friends many transgender men and women of all ages. Hearing their stories and seeing the anguish caused by the ignorance (and I use that term in the purest sense) of many people gave me a perspective I’m not sure many of you have.

I would encourage you to educate yourselves about being transgender and make an effort to hear and listen to the lived experience of transgender individuals. Talking with them may open your eyes as it did mine. With all the diversity in our world, why would there be an absolute binary in this area. Please show some compassion for people who through no fault of their own, already have a tougher path in life.

Please oppose SB180. Do not attempt to erase transgender and intersex people. Learn more, and when you know better, do better. Thank you for your time.

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Charles Osman
Kansas Resident

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

I am a transgender man who lived more than 40 years as a woman before I came out and decided to pursue transition to be true to myself. I am opposed to SB 180 because, while it purports to protect women, it in fact does nothing to address any of the actual dangers and difficulties women face and instead seeks to pit one marginalized group against another.

There are so many false assumptions behind a bill like this one it's hard to even know where to begin. It assumes that trans women aren't "real" women somehow, ignoring the pain and difficulty and time and financial cost involved in gender transition as if it were something a person would undertake on a lark. It assumes trans women don't experience misogyny, which is patently false; anyone who looks even marginally fem experiences misogyny every day. Misogynists don't stop to check a person's genitalia before they treat a fem-presenting person poorly. It assumes that penises are inherently predatory, which even a minute's thought will show is ridiculous. Plenty of cisgender men are good people, and a penis is certainly not required in order to harm women. The *only* thing separating people by their assigned gender at birth could ever really accomplish was to ensure the paternity of children in a time when both women and children were considered to be the property of men. The idea was a bad one to begin with and is entirely outdated now.

I'll be honest: I'm not sure how this bill might affect me as a trans masculine individual. Presumably no one cares who uses the men's room, right? But I have loved ones who would have to leave the state if this bill were to be passed, and my heart breaks for them. (Even if you don't give a \$#! about the individuals impacted, surely the economic impact of losing workers and tax dollars to this misguided attempt to erase trans folk should give you pause.)

And the bill does nothing to address the real problems women face. They are still far too likely to be injured or killed by their intimate (usually cis male) partners *in their own homes*. They still do not receive equal pay for equal work. They still are expected to do the bulk of the unpaid labor around the house even while working outside the home, with no maternity leave and with childcare being both difficult to find and expensive. They are still subjected, day in and day out,

at work and in public (and possibly even at home), to the minor (but cumulative) indignities of being expected to look pretty for random strangers and to be incompetent at whatever they're doing. They still have to fight for reproductive freedom, for the freedom to have the agency to decide what their own lives look like. They still face disbelief and a near total lack of concern from law enforcement when they report assaults.

Attempting to define women by narrowly referring to biology does nothing to address any of these concerns, most of which are shared by cisgender and transgender women alike. It reduces women to their body parts rather than seeing them as whole people.

If we really want to address the problem of women being assaulted, the thing to do is start taking them seriously when they report assaults. Instead of a misguided bathroom bill we need to start investigating reports thoroughly and actually bringing justice to the perpetrators. The vast majority of assaults don't occur in public restrooms and aren't done by strangers, and trans women are far more likely to **be** assaulted than to commit an assault.

I am opposed to this bill as it does nothing to help women and in fact hurts many of them. Thank you for your time.

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Daniel England

Student and Kansas Resident

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

I am a student at the University of Kansas, a life long Kansas resident, and a trans man.

Firstly, biological sex is not an exact science. There are many factors to biological sex that all operate independently from each other: hormones, secondary sex characteristics, external genitalia, internal reproductive organs, gonads, chromosomes. For all of these factors, it is possible to have an intermediate or indeterminate version, that is neither male nor female. It is also possible to have mismatched sets of these characteristics. It is also possible to change many of these characteristics. There are plenty of people who have ovaries and penises. There are people with testes and a vagina. There are people with high levels of testosterone and XX chromosomes. There are people who produce sperm and have a uterus. All of these people are undefined by this bill, and will be directly harmed by it.

This bill also requires fertility to define women, while not all cisgender women are fertile. Many women have to get hysterectomies, mastectomies, and oophorectomies due to cancer. Many women are born without full reproductive systems. When girls are very young and women are rather old, they are not fertile. This would redefine many women as sexless due to lack of fertility.

This bill also directly harms the thousands of transgender Kansans who it will attempt to re-define. I, a trans man, will be forcibly redefined. You will not allow me to call myself a man because the doctor at my birth did not declare me as one. Even though I have no breasts with which to lactate, no ovaries with eggs, no uterus to hold a baby, and no vagina to birth with, and therefore do not fit your definition of woman, you will attempt to strip me of my legal manhood. I have been through the process of legally changing my sex before, and it is long and expensive. I cannot afford to get a new license, new birth certificate, new passport, new insurance, new credit card, new library card, new social security card, new bank account, new school records, new job records, new everything, all because you want to define my sex. Each item you would make me change requires forms to fill out, stamps to mail, filing fees, notarization, driving to and from the post office, doctor's notes, time... Who is paying for all of that? I am a self-supporting student, I barely make \$500 a month, changing my passport alone would wipe out my grocery budget for the next 6 weeks at least. Is the state going to pay for every record correction and

genetic test of every citizen within its borders? I do not think your constituents will appreciate a raise in taxes or reduction in services simply so you can define the word "woman".

This bill hurts Kansans. It hurts Kansans who are transgender. It hurts Kansans who are intersex. It hurts Kansans who are infertile. It hurts Kansans who have received cancer treatments. It hurts Kansans who cannot afford testing or record changes. This bill hurts taxpayers. This bill does not help anyone. It simply hurts.

Instead of trying to forcibly define gender based on false and outdated ideas of biological sex, let Kansans self-ID. Make it easier for transgender and intersex Kansans to change their legal sex. Or better yet, remove sex and gender as legal categories. They do not have meaningful differences, and cause more harm than good.

I strongly oppose this bill. This bill hurts the people of Kansas. This bill is based on false premises. I urge you all to oppose this bill as well. Thank you for your time.

Rev. Dr. Isabel Call
Private Citizen and Pastor
Opponent Testimony of SB 180
For the Committee on Health and Human Services

March 6, 2023

Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

I am a resident of Manhattan and an ordained pastor. I am writing to testify against SB 180, which attempts to define biological sex, thereby purportedly protecting women.

The writers of the bill assert that lack of clarity around biological sex has “led to the endangerment of single-sex spaces.” I ask you to consider, instead, the endangerment of *people*. The reason that some people are at risk of violence is that other people target them. Instead of penalizing potential victims by labeling and segregating them, we need to address the culture of dominance and violence that is particularly prevalent among men.

I oppose this effort to give me (unspecified) “rights” I don’t need and never asked for. I am offended that the writers attempt to scare my fellow Kansans into supporting the bill raising the specter of sexual violence, rationalizing discrimination through a dishonest offer of protection. Rigid gender norms are the problem, not the solution. Creating and policing gender-segregated spaces leads to an environment of fear and conformity, inhibiting everyone from expressing themselves authentically. This only makes the community less safe.

I am joined by my religious community, Unitarian Universalism, which has denounced anti-trans legislation for over three decades. Over that time, we have also actively pursued true protections for women and all people vulnerable to sexualized violence. In 1993, our association of congregations resolved to:

- break the silence by naming and speaking of the violence women experience in their homes, schools, work places, churches, and communities;
- examine the nature and consequences of harassment and the ways in which our social, commercial, and religious institutions sanction harassment of women;
- develop and implement educational programs for children and adults to empower individuals and groups to work at eliminating violence against women;
- develop and implement programs to examine the roles that religious myths and institutions play in fostering violence or in healing its effects;
- promote legislation to stop violence against women;
- promote legislation to require that physicians report suspected cases of abuse; ● advocate for the introduction of school curricula that promotes gender equality and respect, and teaches

non-violent means of conflict resolution;

- support the development and implementation of training programs for law enforcers, health-care providers, business and legal professionals, educators, child-care workers, and clergy, to increase awareness of the causes and symptoms of violence against women and effective methods of intervention;
- promote the creation of safe houses, shelters, counseling centers, and support groups for victims and their dependents; and
- promote personal accountability through intervention and treatment programs, including individual and small group counseling for abusers.

Thirty years later, I urge you, as elected leaders, to do the same for the state of Kansas, shoring up the efforts that have been made in these directions, mostly without the support of the government.

In the meantime, I beseech you to abandon this misguided attempt to legislate gender-based segregation.

Sincerely,
Isabel Call
Manhattan, KS

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Elynn Bragg

Transgender Kansas Resident

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

My name is Elynn Bragg. I am a transgender woman and 30 year resident of Wichita, KS. As a trans woman, this bill curtails several of my rights, as well as putting me in physical danger.

I'm submitting this testimony to give real world examples of the harm this bill will cause, to me and other trans women and trans men. I am in opposition to SB180.

This bill would impact my ability to receive proper health care, put me at significantly higher risk of violence, physical and sexual. The wording of the bill also will have unintended consequences.

To my first point, this bill would reduce my options for Healthcare. Not just gender affirming care, but everyday healthcare. As part of my transition over the years, my body behaves in significantly the same way as a CIS gender female. This means I am required to have things such as regular mammograms. The way this bill is written, it would cause me to pay out of pocket, because a male frequently can only have insurance pay for that procedure if there is a diagnosis or compelling reason to do such a test. Most medicines or vitamins that I have to take, I take them in the manner they are prescribed for CIS women. Again, insurance is less likely to cover these without a diagnosis that indicates the need for these meds.

Secondly, by the wording of this bill, I would be required to use the men's restroom.

Transgender women are at the highest risk of physical and sexual assault by men, more so than Cis Gender women. Every time I used the restroom, I would be putting myself in danger. Violence against trans women frequently ends in death.

Finally, the wording of this bill will put cis gender women in exactly the position this bill is supposed to be written to stop. A trans man, under this law, would be required to use the women's restroom. Testosterone is a significantly stronger hormone, making a trans man more indistinguishable from a cisgender male, in a much shorter length of time. That means, someone looking like any other man, with a full beard and deep voice would be in that restroom

with cisgender women. Unless people are going to be examining genitals, those cisgender women are going to feel as much, or even more discomfort and fear than having a trans woman in that restroom.

I stand in strong opposition to this bill, because it curtails the rights of trans people, puts our Healthcare at risk, and will not actually accomplish what it purports to do. I thank the committee for considering my testimony.

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Emily Bartlett

b.hive theatre

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

My name is Emily Bartlett, Executive Director of b.hive theatre, and I am strongly opposed to SB180.

I have family and friends that identify as transgender and non-binary. I work with people in my job that are transgender and non-binary. I have no idea why people in this very room are so afraid of these people or so in contempt of them. It is absolutely wild to see a group of people try to erase another group of people. I have just a couple things to say 1) the GOP says it is the small government party, but this is big interference with Kansans everyday lives 2)Trying to take away rights from transgender people will not stop them from existing. They exist. Period. 3)Denying life-saving rights to a group of people would have killed my cousin, who had to reach out to an organization years ago at the beginning of their transgender journey. They were strongly Christian and felt like they had been born in the wrong body. Because they had never been around any affirming care, they did not want to be alive anymore. They reached out to a crisis helpline and then received services from organizations that kept them alive. this bill would have made those services unavailable. My cousin would be dead right now, instead of happily living their life.

Thank you for voting no on SB 180

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Ephren Taylor

Kansas Resident

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

MY name is ephren taylor i am a kansas resident and i am opposing this bill

The definitions of biological sex are overly simplistic

Gender identity and gender expression are important factors

Its very unclear what problem this bill is attempting to solve

there are no rights listed in the bill

Amend the bill to change the definitions of man girl woman and boy to refer to gender identity instead of sex.

MY name is ephren taylor i am a kansas resident and i am opposing this bill thank you.

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Erica Benson

Parent, teacher, PTA Board Member, Women's Equality Coalition of Greater KC

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

As a parent of two girls and a women's equality advocate, this bill is extremely flawed.

According to the descriptions in this bill of why women continue to be oppressed, its MEN who are holding women down and back. MEN who are murdering their intimate partners. MEN who are assaulting women. MEN who are harassing and discriminating against women in the workforce. So what then is the purpose/intension of this bill, how does this definition hold men accountable or improve these conditions? It doesn't. Women do not need "protection" from transgender women. Where is the evidence that transgender people are actually harming people in Kansas?

The claims of this bill is not based in actual science. Typically, those with two X chromosomes are considered biologically female and those with one X and one Y chromosome are considered biologically male. However, a DSD known as Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome (AIS) leads some to have an X and Y chromosome, but physically appear to be girls. Without genetic testing, babies with AIS are often assigned female sex at birth and are raised as girls. They may not realize they are not biologically female until they hit puberty and don't begin to menstruate. By some estimates, as many as one in 100 people have differences or disorders of sex development, such as hormonal conditions, genetic changes or anatomical ambiguities, some of which mean that their genitalia cannot clearly be classified as male or female. The research and medical community now sees sex as more complex than male and female, and gender as a spectrum that includes transgender people and those who identify as neither male nor female. This bill ignores that expert consensus. This bill has nothing to do with science and everything to do with stripping away rights and recognition from those whose identity does not correspond with outdated ideas of sex and gender.

Please evaluate evidence/numbers from Kansas. Please focus on real issues that are driven by information and data, not bills copied and pasted across conservative states.

Please oppose SB180.

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Erin Woods

Kansas Resident

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

My name is Erin Woods and I'm a resident of Leawood. I have a son who is a senior in college and a daughter who is a freshman in college. I am testifying today in the hopes that you will vote NO on bill SB 180.

As a straight woman who identifies with the gender I was assigned at birth, I (and my daughter) do not need the protections that are supposedly offered in this bill. I do not fear transgender or non-binary individuals. As I see it, they are just trying to live their authentic lives and wanting to feel comfortable in their own skin. Isn't that what we all want for ourselves? And, from everything I can see, it is unfortunately much more difficult for them, as they are constantly having to deal with legislation condemning their very existence. No one would willingly sign up for this treatment.

It reminds me of a young transgender student from my kids' high school who spoke at a local city council meeting in favor of an NDO the city was considering. The student spoke about how at home they felt at their high school where their teachers and fellow students accepted them for their authentic self. They were asking the city council to pass the NDO as it would go a long way to making them feel at home in their city. Transgender individuals should also feel at home in their state.

We truly can learn a lot from the younger generation. Many of them seem to have a greater sense of empathy and understanding. They understand the importance of mental health and how important it is to have a sense of belonging. They understand that we were all made differently, and that is okay.

You have the power to be accepting of your fellow Kansans or to vilify them. Transgender and non-binary individuals are not a threat to cis-gender women. In fact, they are not a threat to anyone. They are just living their lives and wishing they weren't being used as a political football.

I urge you to please vote no on SB 180 and to stay focused on issues that would really support women like expanding Medicaid or prohibiting domestic abusers from possessing guns. Those are real threats to a woman's well-being.

To: Committee on Health and Human Services

March 2, 2023

RE: Testimony in Opposition to SB180

Dear Committee Members,

I am very much opposed to SB180.

I believe that humans as a species are in a constant state of change from the moment of conception until the moment we pass away. It is fortunate for us that in our drive to survive as a species, we have developed the ability to not only evaluate physical and mental health but make changes to both allowing us to thrive. Medical professionals are in agreement that Gender Dysphoria is a real medical condition. If, in our lifetime of change, an individual who was born male wants to be a female or a female at birth wants to be a male then they should be allowed to make those changes without interference from government. This bill appears to want to use a snap shot, at the very start of life to define it with no room for change. This is a mistake and not necessary. Please allow people the freedom to change who and what they are throughout their life. If government takes away an individual's ability to change our world will be lesser for it. Please oppose SB 180.

Sincerely,

Fred Bellemere

Lawrence, Kansas

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Gretchen Meyer

Kansas Resident

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

I vehemently oppose SB180. I am a teacher, a lifelong Christian, and a staunch advocate of women's rights. I do not believe that SB180 protects women. Women do not need to be protected from the transgender and non-binary community. Rather, SB180 is a blatant attempt to erase transgender and non-binary individuals.

SB180 claims to protect women from violence and discrimination. This is patently false. Women are not endangered by the existence of transgender and non-binary individuals. We are endangered by centuries of systemic oppression that socializes men to treat us as objects and that allows men to harass and attack us with very few consequences. We are not subjected to discrimination because of the fact that people simply don't fit into narrow, binary categories. The discrimination we face is rooted in historical views that portray us as weak, irrational, hysterical, and incompetent. The obstacles that women face have nothing to do with the transgender and non-binary community, as evidenced by the fact that these obstacles existed hundreds of years before the terms "transgender" and "non-binary" were invented.

As a woman, I am scared of many things : walking alone at night, going out to a bar or club on my own, being alone with a man I don't know; but I am not scared of transgender or non-binary people. I have been in classrooms, bathrooms, locker rooms, meeting rooms, cafes, and nightclubs with transgender and non-binary people. I have never once felt threatened by them. If the Kansas Senate actually wants to protect women, I can think of several dozen ways for them to accomplish that goal. Erasing transgender and non-binary people isn't one of them.

As a teacher, I also oppose SB180 on the grounds that it denies the existence of students whom I cherish. During my career, I have taught transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming students. They have all been kind, friendly, fun-loving, vibrant, and creative individuals. Not a single one of them would even so much as hurt a fly. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of the country, and the state, in which they were born. I don't need your protection, but these children do. I have watched them be bullied, insulted, excluded, and disrespected by their peers on a regular basis. My heart breaks for them because no matter how brave and optimistic

they are, they are being tortured daily with a thousand small cuts. I do everything I can to protect them, but the support that I can offer is little more than a bandaid. You could help them. You could pass laws affirming their rights, their dignity, their personhood, but instead you empower their persecutors by proposing legislation that seeks to rob them of the most basic human right - the acknowledgement of their very existence.

Transgender and non-binary youth are one of the populations most at risk for suicide in this country, and bills like SB180 are one of the reasons for this. It's easy to understand why. When your own government clearly wishes that you didn't exist, it becomes much more difficult to find reasons to live. Make no mistake, SB180 will kill people if it becomes law.

By far the most important reason why I oppose SB180 is because I am a Christian. In the Bible it states that all people are created in the image of God and that God loves all people - ALL. There are no asterisks, caveats, or exceptions listed in the Bible. I am deeply ashamed of the Christians who have arrogantly put words in God's mouth, ignored Jesus' teachings, and weaponized their faith. As a Christian, I know for certain that transgender and non-binary people are sacred and beloved children of God. I look forward to the day when God's love for them is shown to be stronger than the hate of those who seek to destroy them in God's name.

Every year, bills seeking to legalize discrimination are proposed in the Kansas legislature. These bills paint Kansas as an oppressive, hateful, fearful, and awful state in which to live. The reality that I see is different. Yes, transgender and non-binary people are persecuted here. Yes, they are in danger here. But I know rural farmers who deeply love their transgender children. I know couples in small, seemingly narrow-minded towns who are incredibly supportive of their non-binary children. I see cisgender students stand up to the bullies in school to protect their transgender and non-binary classmates. These people are part of the solution. They are the future. SB180 is part of the problem. Voting for it will keep Kansas locked away in the past, left behind in a world where love always ends up being stronger than hate.

I urge you to create the future that Kansans deserve by voting NO on SB180.

Thank you,
Gretchen Meyer

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

GWen Elliott

Kansas Resident

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

As a retired school social worker who cares about the interests of children and youth, I believe this legislation would have damaging effects on all who would have to deal with its restrictions. Who is going to enforce it, especially when it comes to entering public restrooms? Our own adult daughter is not transgendered, but often dresses in masculine fashion. Will she have to worry about someone stopping her from entering the ladies' restroom when she visits Kansas? Surely, she should not use the men's room! Who will "inspect" people who look like her to make sure they are not transgendered? And how will those inspecting people know the exact signs to look for on the body of a transgendered person? Will an inspecting citizen have the right to undress another individual, and where will that undressing take place? Surely not outside the restroom!

It is not clear what current "harms" this bill is intended to cure. I have only once encountered a clearly transgendered person in a public restroom in Kansas, and she was very appropriate in her conduct. I would not have known she was transgendered had she not been the speaker at the event I was attending. Would this legislation require me to report her or try to stop her from using the restroom should I encounter the situation again?

This legislation seems to be a grave violation of personal freedom and a terribly negative reflection on Kansas at a time when medical science understands more about sexuality than ever before. If it should become law, this legislation will almost undoubtedly lead to law suits that are expensive and embarrassing for the State to counter, and will be very unlikely for the State to win.

Not only do I think this legislation is completely wrong, I also believe it is dangerous. The unnecessary conflicts that it will set up among innocent citizens and the violation of the rights of all the people who need restrooms, and treatment centers makes it very discriminatory. I am sorry to hear that the Kansas Legislature would even consider such a harmful bill. Please vote against it.

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Holly Terrill

Parent

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

My name is Holly Terrill. As the parent of a transgender teenager, I oppose SB180 because it would allow politicians to take away parental rights to make medical decisions for our children, disregarding the respected medical research and recommendations from our own medical professionals. As a parent, I want what is best for my child, and that includes making sure he gets the medical care he needs to live an authentic life.

Gender affirming care for youth primarily consists of access to mental health care and counseling, puberty blockers, and hormone treatments or hormone replacement therapy. All of these forms of medical care are safe and reversible. NO prepubescent transgender children are receiving gender affirming surgeries in our state. This is a fact that supporters of this bill have chosen to ignore.

Governor Kelly recently stated that our North Star is to make Kansas the best place in America to raise a family. This can only be accomplished if we treat each of our community members, including our youth, with dignity and respect.

We cannot let this bill become a reality in Kansas.

Our youth and their families deserve every opportunity to receive the healthcare they need and medical professionals deserve to provide medically necessary care without fear of criminal prosecution. Please do not allow ignorance and hatred to win. I implore you to please not pass this bill. Thank you for your time and for your careful consideration.

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Isidro Marino

Kansas Resident

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

Hello everyone, my name is Isidro Marino and my pronouns are he/him/his. I am 23 years old and openly identify as a bisexual male. I am a resident of Garden City, Kansas, a college student and community advocate for underrepresented communities.

The purpose of my testimony today is to urge you to oppose SB180. I have known and met many trans identifying children and adults in Kansas that only wish to be heard, seen and respected for their individuality. SB180 does nothing to defend women's rights and is intended to harm individuals for identifying as transgender.

The proponents of this bill are non-Kansans, not residents of this state and are people who have the ill-intention of pushing state legislatures across the country into harming trans-identifying individuals. Most transgender identifying individuals that I have met already suffer from anxiety, depression and social stigma, and SB180 will exacerbate those experiences for the transgender community. When I worked as a Crisis Service Provider in 2022, it was a common amongst transgender identifying children who I provided services for, to be in a state of distress because they weren't being respected by their pronouns, bodily autonomy and respect amongst their peers. SB180 would harm these very children I worked for in 2022, because it erases the identify of transgender children. SB 180 is a harmful bill on a large scale to the Kansas community, and it is shameful that this bill is even having a hearing.

Please, as a resident of Kansas and a voice for many who cant testify today, I urge this committee to oppose Senate Bill 180. Thank you committee members for allowing me to provide written testimony urging you to oppose SB180.

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Jacob Young

Kansas resident

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

My name is Rose and I am a transgender woman. My testimony today is in opposition to the continuing targeted bills brought forth as they represent the government overreaching into daily lives.

This bill would find impact on myself and many others by classifying me as something I am not which could lead to horrific treatment to people like me at the hands of the legal system. Additionally the gathering of information to track the sex people are given at birth is a terrifying premise. If one is to go through all the steps of legally changing their gender and was then put into prison based on their sex at birth the results would be unjust and cruel especially to trans women who seek medical transition.

There is no alternative, this bill must end. No one is free until we are all free

In summary, this has no place in Kansas and should not be moved forward. Thank you for your time.

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Jeanne Koontz

Kansas Resident / Member of the Clergy

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

I am a parent, Kansas resident, and member of the clergy. Trans rights are important to me because I believe all people are created in the image of God and all should have the right to receive gender affirming care. I oppose SB180 because it essentially serves to erase transgender and non-binary Kansans from state statute.

This bill serves to further alienate and essentially erase legal protections and recognition of transgender and non-binary persons. The effects this will have on my community and the state as a whole will be detrimental. Transgender and non-binary persons are already at risk for increased mental health issues, and are more likely to be victims of bullying, hate, prejudice, harassment, and assault. Stripping them of their rights by removing them from state statute will only further discriminate against them and increase the fear with which they live. It will lead to increases in the need for mental health services which we are struggling to currently meet. As a member of the clergy, I implore you to vote no on this bill. As people of faith we are called to speak up for the lonely, the poor, and the outcast. We are called to embrace the other, until there are no others. Passing this bill goes against our calling.

I implore you to work towards bills and actions that truly protect the rights of all people, regardless of their gender identity.

Please Vote No on SB 180 and thank you for considering my testimony.

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Jonathan Smith

Topeka Resident and Father

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

My name is Jonathan Smith. I've been living in Kansas since I was four years old. Topeka is the only place that I've ever lived and worked. I have met many different people while working in the service industry in restaurants and as a truck driver for eight years. Although, I have never met someone so bigoted towards a people that they don't understand as the proponents of SB180.

I will start by saying that I am just an average white guy. I have been one my entire life. I have never felt that maybe I would be happier as a woman. I am who I always wanted to be, aspirations notwithstanding. If I felt completely wrong as a man, I would think it would be my constitutional right as an American to PURSUE THAT HAPPINESS, or perhaps that's just me being a patriotic American who has read the Declaration of Independence.

Why in the world would I ever care what or who someone else identified as if it didn't impact my life or my rights or the rights of others?

This is where I will add that my brother-in-law is a Trans man. I knew the guy all the way back when he was in high school identifying as a woman. I will tell you in no uncertain terms. He was never happier than today, as he is, as a man. That is simply the truth that he lives. When we go to the movies, we go to the same bathroom. When we play sports, we are similarly athletic (neither one of us are making it to the professional league).

For the proponents of this bill to tell him, and more specifically ME, that he is incorrect living this life that he truly enjoys as a man, is downright ignorant. You couldn't think of a faster or more direct way of telling me that you have no idea the lives and stories of actual transgender individuals than expressing a want to pass this bill.

I will end by linking to a study by The American Academy of Plastic Surgeons in the National Library of medicine, it which it states that in 27 study groups totaling 7,928 transgender patients, statistically 1% of those individuals presented regret after gender-affirming surgeries.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8099405/>

Let that study exist in direct opposition to the very VERY few people who come forward to talk about the enormous regret they have felt about THEIR specific experience that FAR from lines up with the VAST MAJORITY of cases.

This bill seems to be trying to protect women from this made-up threat of specifically transgender men taking their sports positions, jobs, bathrooms? I want to unequivocally state how absolutely ridiculous this bill is to address any kind of real concern in that regard. If you want to protect ACTUAL women from REAL hardships in their lives, you need to pass legislation that strengthens sexual assault penalties under the law, strengthens sexual or gender based discrimination from the workplace, and maybe pass ANY kind of maternal protections or help, similar to child care or maternal-leave.

I, with much thought, request that you absolutely oppose SB 180, the "Women's Bill of Rights". It is a far-cry from any kind of real meaningful help for any real Kansas woman. Thank you for your time, and please return to work on REAL legislation.

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Kathryn Mersmann

Kansan

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

As a Kansan, I believe firmly in the equality of all. That is why I firmly oppose this bill, which relies on unscientific “evidence” and is designed only to threaten and harm a small number of marginalized Kansans.

My trans and intersex friends are moving away from Kansas, taking their talents with them. My cisgender friends who believe in justice and equity are following suit. If you are not moved by compassion for others, at least consider the long-term economic effects of making Kansas less welcoming to young people. This regressive and cruel bill will not only have the intended effect of harming trans people but the unintended effect of firmly putting Kansas on the wrong side of history and ensuring young people will not stick around to make the state stronger.

Thank you for reading my testimony. I would only ask that you look into your hearts and your business interests and see what a short-sighted, harmful bill this is.

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Kathy Kappes-Sum

parent and former teacher

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

As a former middle school teacher and parent, I understand the importance of supporting our children as they figure out who they are.

Our young people don't always define themselves by strict gender rules, and that can be uncomfortable for us, but it doesn't mean that they're wrong. They sometimes need to try on some different identities so they can see what feels right. They might try different sports and hobbies, using nicknames, or dressing differently. For some, that means acting as a different gender. Forcing them to conform to traditional gender norms is highly counterproductive and can push them to depression, anxiety, and suicide. Young transgender adults are harmed by labelling them with their gender assigned at birth.

In addition, if we start shutting trans people out of restrooms and shelters, we are putting them at risk. It's cruel to make them use the wrong restroom or keep trans women out of rape crisis centers and domestic violence centers. There's no reason to be cruel to people who are just trying to live their lives.

Please vote NO on SB 180.

Thank you for your consideration.

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Keaton Vaughn

Kansas Resident

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

My name is Keaton Vaughn and I am a resident of Overland Park, KS. I am transgender and non-binary and use they/them pronouns. I am writing to you in opposition of SB180. I find it extremely upsetting that such a bill would even be considered. The bill is an attempt to invade the private lives of citizens, and it bars the pursuit of liberty and happiness for transgender Kansans.

When I was born, a doctor decided that an F sex marker should be attributed to my birth certificate, but I am not female. This bill is attempting to equate sex with gender which are two entirely different things. Internal organs do not define who I am, how I know myself, or what public facilities and accommodations I should be allowed to access.

As a non-binary person, my personal preference is to have an X legal marker reflected on my birth certificate and drivers license. This is not currently allowed in the state of Kansas but my hope is that one day it will be, as it currently is in other states and on passports. When that time comes, I deserve the right to amend my legal documents to reflect who I truly am. My binary transgender siblings also continue to deserve the right to amend their documents as is already legally allowed in Kansas.

Having legal documents that reflect who we are is a human right. Can you imagine the distress it would cause you to have government documents that inaccurately identify you? What lengths would you go to in order to ensure they were accurate? If you truly take a moment to think on this topic and put yourself in your neighbor's shoes, you will experience a tiny fraction of the hurdles transgender people face on a regular basis.

SB180 is discriminatory. This bill purports to "protect women" but really it is discriminating against transgender people. This bill is hateful and harmful, and if it passes it will harm Kansas. Corporations will take their business elsewhere and refuse to move here. Residents will decide to move to other states with less discriminatory laws on the books. Kansas will lose revenue and the economy will be negatively impacted.

I strongly urge you to vote in opposition of SB180. Thank you.

**To: House Committee on Health and Human Services
March 2, 2023**

RE: Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 180

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding Senate Bill 180. I must voice my opposition to this dangerous bill.

In reading through the bill, I was astounded by the misinformation and inaccuracies upon which it is based. As the mother of a transgender woman and a former health educator I found the language to be insulting and willfully blind to the realities of life as a transgender person. As a woman, I see nothing in this bill that supports or benefits me in anyway. It simply uses my “biological sex” as an excuse to discriminate against people I love.

The definitions of “biological sex” and gender outlined in this bill are not supported by medical science. Multitudes of studies, the experts who study gender, and the lived experiences of transgender people all show us irrefutably that gender is not fixed for everyone and that one’s gender identity is determined by more than just genetics. A state’s governing body can’t set aside the knowledge and expertise of scientists and doctors who study gender dysphoria or the will of its citizens in favor of their own opinions and biases. And it certainly isn’t up to this legislature to arbitrarily decide what my gender or anyone else’s should be.

Bills such as this one aren’t meant to protect anyone’s rights. They’re simply designed to bully and further diminish an already marginalized group of people and make it known that they aren’t allowed to live a public life as their truest selves. That’s all any transgender person wants to do – simply live their life in peace.

Thank you again for this opportunity to offer testimony. I urge you to support transgender Kansans and oppose SB 180.

Respectfully,

Kim Bellemere



Lauren Tice Miller, Lauren.TiceMiller@knea.org
Director of Government Relations & Elections
Written Testimony - Opponent
Senate Bill 180
House Committee on Health and Human Services
March 6, 2023

Chairwoman Landwehr, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 180, the bill creates the so-called “Women’s Bill of Rights.”

Kansas NEA believes that the total environment, including home, school, and community affects the social/emotional, cognitive, and physical health of children. In addition, we believe that children should grow up in environments free from all forms of bullying and discrimination including but not limited to race, color, national origin, religious beliefs, residence, socio-economic status, disability, political activities, professional association activity, age, marital status, family relationship, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Senate Bill 180 creates a system of discrimination by oversimplifying what constitutes a male and a female. Biology does not break down that neatly into a binary. Further, it fails to factor in a host of circumstances that may arise leaving an individual without the biological reproductive system functions as outlined in the bill. What then? Do they no longer get recognized as human?

This bill is founded on the severely misguided notion that girls and women who are transgender are “biologically” male and would codify a complete disregard to these Kansans – Kansans who are our family members, friends, neighbors, coworkers; some are even our children. They are human beings who deserve to live a happy, healthy life with the freedom to be themselves.

As such, we urge you to reject Senate Bill 180.

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

LeAnna Herrmann

Parent/RN/ ks resident

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

I am a lifelong Kansas resident, i am not transgender but i have lived and loved several people who identify as trans. I am writing in opposition to this bill because they deserve to have the same rights as cis-gender people.

I first encountered a trans-person in 2011, and we started dating. He was just starting to transition when we met. I was supportive because he is a genuinely good person, and by identifying as a different gender than what was assigned at birth does not change him in any fundamental way. He deserves the right to express the gender he identifies with. Every person deserves the right to be happy, and research has shown gender affirmation from family and medical providers reduces depression, anxiety and suicidal ideation.

Please do not pass SB180. Kansans are not this hateful. You have probably met a trans-person at some point in your life, and they are not inherently different or evil.

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Lisa Weeks

Lisa Weeks, Kansas resident and compassionate human being

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

I am Lisa Weeks, a lifelong Kansas resident and compassionate and inclusive human being. I oppose this bill because I value the rights of ALL humans equally.

The proposed bill discriminates against a group of humans, while purporting to be protecting women. Do not be fooled by inflated media stories or fearmongers. Instead, examine the science, seek the truth and help us maintain our welcoming Kansas communities.

Vote NO on this bill so that Kansas will remain a welcoming state for all humankind.

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Magnus Primm

Kansas resident

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

My name is Magnus Primm. I am 23 years old, and a lifelong resident of Lawrence, Kansas. I've never left the state for longer than one month at a time, from the time I was born in Topeka until now as an adult. In my free time I like to read, watch documentaries and spend time with my sister and friends. I have an interest in language, narrative analysis and spoiling my cat, Virgil. I am writing this testimony to request that SB 180 be rejected.

I have been my own sole caretaker since I was 17 years old. My only surviving family are my sister, who also lives in Lawrence with her husband, a paternal aunt out of Wyoming, and a half-brother who lives in Germany. I have no mother to call for comfort. I have no father to turn to for support. My transition into adulthood has been tumultuous, messy and lonely. Throughout my early years in the adult workforce, newly orphaned and desperately trying to keep my head above water, I struggled with abject depression and suicidality. On top of that, everything I knew about myself swayed. I felt in my soul that my internal life did not match what the world told me I was, and the knowledge that people like myself have been prosecuted for decades weighed heavy on me. Not all of my problems were related to gender troubles, but gender troubles played a major role in compounding the misery inspired in me from every other aspect of my life.

I hated my life, my work, my body and myself. My revulsion for my physical form, and specifically the way that others treated me because of it, was all-encompassing: the idea of a world where I could tolerate being seen by other people was unfathomable. The media I see now is inundated with panicked think pieces about predatory transgender adults, luring hapless individuals into the cult of gender ideology, but my experience could not have been more different — no one suggested to me that I might be trans. The feeling came from within me, all on its own. I was just trying to keep a roof over my head and be comfortable with what I saw in the mirror. There was no piece of my life that I found redeemable or worth preserving; if I hadn't survived those years, my will would have requested my sister to destroy as much evidence as possible that I had ever lived at all. Slowly, I started to regain my desire to fight for my life. I made friends who empathized with and understood me, and found hope in a community that accepted me wholeheartedly. Every day I'm grateful that I did survive, and that I've come to a

point where I would never ask that my sister erase me from her life. I'm grateful that I took the steps I've taken to build a life I could accept having memorialized.

After years of questioning myself, interrogating my own reasoning, my desires and my needs, I finally dredged up the courage to look into hormone replacement therapy. There was exactly one informed consent clinic in Lawrence at the time. I researched obsessively, determined to know as much as possible about the effects of HRT. I wanted to know anything and everything, desperate for an excuse to tell myself that it would be a mistake.

The side effects were negligible. The mental and physical benefits, taken into consideration with what I found intolerable about my body and how others viewed it, would be staggering. The social consequences would be potentially devastating — but I was already an orphan, and deeply introverted besides. How much worse could it possibly get? I scheduled an appointment to discuss starting HRT with the clinic's single transgender specialist.

I met the practitioner in a quiet office. We talked about what I took issue with in my daily life, the ways I struggled with revulsion and detachment from my own body. We talked about my inability to imagine a future for myself; friendships, family, relationships, work. We talked about the effects of HRT — I already knew them all. There wasn't a single known side effect that I was not aware of. I signed medical consent forms agreeing that I was of sound mind and appropriate age to make medical decisions on my own behalf, and that I fully understood the nature of the treatment I was seeking.

I went in one week later for my first injection, where a nurse taught me how to prep a syringe and perform a subcutaneous shot. She guided me through the motions, telling me what to look out for, who to contact for help if I came to need it. In that tiny back room of the clinic, between the scales and measuring sticks, I learned how to care for myself.

Do you know the feeling when you've been sick, and your sinuses are blocked, your throat sore, and it feels like you've felt that way for as long as you can remember? Breathing is a chore. Keeping yourself alive becomes an annoyance at best, and agonizing at worst. But, eventually, you recover — your airways unblock. It doesn't feel like your body is fighting you anymore.

It felt like that, walking out of that tiny room. It felt like I could enjoy breathing, for the first time in so long. My life mattered to me again. I couldn't wish myself out of poverty, repair my family, or force those around me to accept the person I'd decided I was going to be. That was fine. I didn't need anyone else to accept me: I needed to be able to accept myself.

It's been nearly four years since then. My circumstances haven't changed significantly — I live the same standardized low-income life in the American Midwest as I always have. But, like those first steps out of the clinic, I can breathe. I have wonderful friends who see me for who I am, who love me, and whom I love, deeply. My coworkers are kind and funny; I make customers laugh and smile. When I pass strangers on the street I nod and wave. I am capable of finding value in the person I am, and the person I am trying to be.

With this time, I could recite statistics on gender-affirming care and the ways in which it vastly improves quality of life for transgender people across the board. I could. But this bill is not about accepting statistics or medical advice, or the messy reality of human physiology, small piece of Earthly biology that it may be. This bill is not about protecting women or children. This bill is not about accepting reality. It is about enforcing a rigid patriarchal system which has no foundation outside of social structures which we, as humans, have invented. It is about control. It is about punishment. It is about demeaning, degrading and dehumanizing anyone who cannot or will not conform to gendered standards set as a means of categorization and control, all for the crime of being undefinable in a manufactured binary system.

You cannot legislate organic living bodies and define them entirely by what they do or do not contain, or what pieces they are or are not comprised of. This is not a moral refutation: it is an acknowledgement of logical impossibility. There is no "true" woman. There is no "true" man. You cannot define what body parts are and are not appropriate or acceptable for any given person or people to have and expect it to be followed. Biology is not beholden to law; it is beholden to the limits of fetal development and natural genetic mutation. Even cisgender bodies vary wildly. There are cisgender men born with uteruses and wombs. There are cisgender women born with additional or missing chromosomes. There was a time we as human beings didn't understand how our own bodies worked. There was a time we weren't aware of the liver, or the appendix, or the thyroid — but did they not still exist? Refusing to acknowledge the messy reality of bimodal sex characteristics does not make them go away. Attempting to legislate human bodies into neat categories to suit political ends does not make those bodies less complex. We as humans won't notice entire pieces of ourselves unless we actively look for them. That is what is detestable about this bill, and others like it: it is a demand for people to stop looking.

The fact remains that this bill and those like it exist as a result of legislators cashing in on latent moral panic. If detransitioning was anything other than a rare exception, doctors would not prescribe HRT at the rate they do, because those like the proponents of this bill would be trotting them out all together, as a unified whole, to prove that medical transition is a danger. Instead, we are seeing the complete inverse: fewer than 20 people who have detransitioned in our country are vocally condemning gender-affirming care and transgender people as a whole, accepting book deals and speaking positions — lucrative ones, I must assume — decrying vital forms of healthcare as dangerous and experimental. Procedures which have existed specifically for treating transgender people longer than many minorities in our country have been legally permitted to vote are now being called a threat to our children in an attempt to criminalize bodily autonomy, social freedom and self-expression.

I hold no ill will whatsoever for people who have detransitioned in and of themselves. But this incredibly small, incredibly vocal minority of people found something valuable to them in the transgender community specifically, and the LGBT community at large, and — upon deciding that it was not actually for them, or that the supposed benefits they first enjoyed did not outweigh the reality of living as a trans person — decided that their own choice, which did not suit their needs, therefore must never be made available to anyone, under the risk that it may

hypothetically not suit their needs as well. They are advocating for an entire minority group to be punished for their own regret. This is a nonsense argument, founded on the idea that any one person can know better than another what a “good life” is, and what one must do to live it.

No one goes into transitioning, socially or medically, with eyes closed. I have not met a single transgender person in my life who was unaware of the potential risks of coming out as trans — nearly all of which are entirely due to social pressure, I might add — and yet, for us, those risks are worth facing. The choice we are presented with is this: self-actualization, acknowledging that we are whole people on our own terms, or a life passing us by, never being known and loved for who we are, never being seen. Too often the latter option is forced upon us by circumstance: the inability to transition because of social pressures, because of bigotry, because of hatred, because of fear... because of bills like this one, criminalizing us for exercising our own human autonomy, determining for ourselves what kinds of people we will be.

Children should be protected, yes — and they should also be treated with dignity. I feel that, often times, in legislation intended to protect children, it's forgotten that children are complete individuals, outside of their parents, guardians and carers, with their own perspectives, hopes and aspirations. Treating them as subhuman, incapable of thought, incapable of recognizing their own needs, is not only cruel: it creates adults who suffer for having never learned independence of the self. There are laws in place intended to protect children from making decisions that may harm them down the road, yes — but demeaning, outing, abusing and removing support structures from children coming into their own identities is not protection, especially when these laws also target the parents of children who support them fully in their decision. It is threatening their present and their future for daring to try to be themselves. If the goal is to protect children, expand funding for and revitalize social services like public schools, transit and libraries. Establish universal national healthcare and childcare. Do anything meaningful to materially help the children hurting and starving and suffering in our communities from poverty, disease and abuse.

Don't paint a target on the backs of children who are already vulnerable, who have done absolutely nothing whatsoever to deserve grown adults determinedly theorizing about their bodies to the point of obsession in the public sphere. If you are genuinely so concerned about unfairness in girls' sports that you feel the need to publicly interrogate what genitals a child is born with, I invite you to make all school sports gender neutral and introduce a weight-class system. Don't rob children, especially girls, of the chance to compete against their peers because of the bodies they're born with — encourage healthy competition within skill groups, based on skill.

Have you ever been in the closet? It can feel safe, sometimes. It felt safe once for me. It can be comforting, keeping your existence to yourself. It can feel like you're untouchable; like no one can reach you in that black space. But, more than that, it's suffocating — you can't recognize your own reflection and care for it. How is anyone supposed to love themselves if they've been

trapped, by force or by coerced choice, in a position where they are unable to look at their own face and feel recognition or joy? Why would we, as human beings, want anyone to experience that? Is the point of living in a society not to provide the best means to survive and, beyond that, thrive, for everyone? Why in the world would you want to take that away? Why are we not striving to be as understanding and kind to one another as possible?

I refuse to live my one life on anyone else's terms. I know many others, braver and better spoken than myself, who have said the same. I am choosing to put forward my sincere belief in all people that they will change their minds and make the conscious decision to utilize what power they have for the betterment of their fellow human beings. I am choosing to believe that my senators and representatives took up their positions to make our state and country kinder. I am choosing to believe that the terms set for my own and my peers' participation in society by our legislators will be made in good faith, by people who genuinely want to make our world — now and in the future — a better place.

I am choosing to believe these things, because I cannot believe them instinctively, and there is no other option. I clung to the hope that I could be a better me, a me capable of loving and being loved, by my fingernails, just barely, and lived to speak today. I ask that you take my trust — my earnest, deliberate trust — that you can and will choose to do the right thing, and reject this bill and those like it entirely.

My question for the sponsors of these bills, our senators and representatives, and anyone else who may be listening is this: what entitles you to set the terms of my existence? Why do you have that right, and I do not?

Thank you for your time.

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Matthew Millar

Kansas Resident

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

My name is Matthew Millar, I am a Kansas resident and I stand in strong opposition to SB180. A bill that leads to further establish the legal erasure of transgender and non-binary individuals. The passing of this bill would do nothing but strip away the rights and identities of Trans-Americans which would continue to hurt an already vulnerable community.

I have family, friends, and co-workers who are part of the LGBTQ+ community and this is just another representation of the segregation and separation that has been happening for decades.

The bill itself claims that "biological differences between the sexes mean that male individuals are, on average bigger, stronger, and faster than female individuals" but what about female athletes who are in fact bigger, faster, and stronger than their male counterparts? What about the biological differences between individuals of the same sex, should we also prevent those who are bigger, faster, and stronger from competing against those who are not? I'm a 5'10, 170lb male - I should then only be able to compete against people who are the same as me by this definition.

SB 180 creates hard and rigid definitions of sex which would then remove anyone who does not neatly fit into that box. This includes all people who are intersex. There are people who don't simply fit into the binary male or female category. Amnesty International believes that almost 2% of the general population is intersex.

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.

I am asking you again, to please vote No on SB 180 to stop the discrimination on an already marginalized and vulnerable community.

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Melinda Parks

Lifelong Kansas Resident

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

I am writing in opposition to SB 180. I am a lifelong Kansan and a lifelong Methodist. I strongly believe that persons are persons and that we need to love and respect all persons, regardless of our personal experiences. I am fundamentally opposed to discrimination against any persons and certainly am opposed to any attempts to "erase" these persons from our society.

Defining "biological sex" on the ability to pro create is ridiculous. Not even all women are able to procreate when we want to - will you now ban us from women's restrooms? Transgender persons use of public spaces of their sex of choice, access to domestic violence centers and rape crises centers is not harming anyone else. We were taught to love all people, whether they're the same or different than me. We teach our children to love all people. Passage of this bill will serve to harm trans children and adults in our state.

Again, I am opposed to this bill. Now - I believe the Kansas legislature should get about the business of governing where we have real problems, namely funding of special education in public schools, solving water issues in western Kansas, and building strong economics - an quit worrying about forming laws to discriminate against people.

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Melissa Stiehler

Resident of Topeka

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my experience and perspective with you all regarding my opposition to SB180. I am a resident here in Topeka, Kansas, and a bisexual woman, born and raised in the Kansas City metro. I was the one of very few girls at my high school who was openly LGBTQ. While there has been a tremendous amount of conversation around bullying amongst students, there has been little conversation about the ways that anti-LGBTQ bullying is encouraged by adults.

I was part of the graduating class of 2007. If you don't remember the politics around the LGBTQ community in the 2000s, let me paint you a picture. This is during the debate of the Defense of Marriage Act and the policy of Don't Ask Don't Tell. Most of my neighbors had signs in their yards referencing these policies. The signs read "man + woman = marriage". This slogan was created by adults, targeting adult members of the LGBTQ community, but was often used to harass me. My peers would use it when the other girls assaulted me in the restroom, because they said they were afraid of sharing the restroom with a lesbian. They would use it to bully me out of the locker room, because they said they didn't want to change in front of me. Then, they would use it to tease me when I was being sent to the principal's office for not changing into my gym clothes, which we were all required to do. I was miserable. I felt so alone. I complained to the adults about the bullying but they said there was nothing they could do. I started skipping school so I didn't have to be tormented by my peers until eventually I was expelled for missing too many classes.

I'm sure this story sounds familiar, because those same attacks against me used over a decade ago have been renewed against trans women and girls today. What happened to me was bad, but what this bill does today is far worse. When elected officials were debating my humanity through laws and policy in the 2000s, at least they were attacking grown adults and it was their children echoing them to attack me. Today, you are debating a bill directly attacking trans children, as is shown by offering a legal definition of girls and boys based upon disproven and outdated science.

This bill doesn't just stop with childhood sports though, this bill expands segregation to domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, locker rooms, restrooms, prisons or other detention facilities, and more. If passed, this bill would lead to trans women, who are the most likely population to face physical and sexual violence, to not receive help from the organizations who support victims of violence, as these nonprofits couldn't possibly afford to offer statewide protection to their trans patients as an additional segregated population. It would require trans women, who are visibly indistinguishable from what you refer to as a biological woman, to serve prison time at an all male facility. It would require trans men with full beards to use the women's restroom, causing them to face incalculable threats to their safety if required to out themselves every time they need to relieve themselves in public spaces.

This is hateful legislation. I pray that you all don't have that kind of hate in your heart to pass this terrible bill, but every year a bill attacking children who may be different than your own gets a hearing. Every year, this legislature paints our trans neighbors as predators without any evidence. Many of you have supported legislation that implies people like me, members of the LGB+ community, are predatory too. But it's just not true. I and most Kansans believe that so long as it's not hurting anyone, the government should let people be. Just like you and I, trans Kansans are just trying to live- so let them be. I strongly urge you to vote in opposition now and every time legislation like this comes up. Thank you for your time and consideration.



House Health and Human Services Committee
Chair, Rep. Brenda Landwehr
Hearing: March 6th, 2023

Michael Poppa, Mainstream Coalition
Written Testimony
Position – OPPOSE SB180

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide opposition testimony on SB180.

Mainstream Coalition is a nonprofit, nonpartisan grassroots advocacy organization. We were founded in 1993 by a bipartisan coalition of legislators, faith leaders, and community activists with the primary purpose of guarding against ideological extremism and protecting the separation of religion and government.

We have provided testimony to other committees in opposition to dangerous legislation attacking marginalized Kansans, such as members of the LGBTQ+ community. SB180 is yet another one of these direct and targeted attacks. I am writing you today in strong opposition to the legal discrimination suggested in SB180.

SB180 is disingenuous and dangerous. While this bill purports to protect women it, in fact, seriously endangers the lives of transgender Kansans. By legally defining “biological sex” in terms related to the ability to procreate, it would prohibit transgender individuals from accessing restrooms, domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, and other essential spaces and services.

When you took your oath of office, you swore to represent all Kansans. I respectfully urge you to please oppose SB180, and stop the targeted attacks on vulnerable constituents.

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Monroe Hanson

Kansas Resident

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

I am a concerned Kansas resident. I have lived in Kansas for 10 years. This bill fails to serve any benefit to women and actively discriminates against vulnerable populations.

The scientific basis of this bill is factually inaccurate. Some cis women don't have uteruses, don't have XX chromosomes, don't have estrogen as their primary hormone, don't menstruate, cannot bear children, and cannot breastfeed. There is not a single characteristic one can point to and say "this is what makes a woman" that will not leave out myriads of cisgender women as well as transgender women. Additionally, this bill completely ignores the existence of intersex individuals and attempts to legislate transgender people out of existence.

Vote against SB180. It serves no useful purpose and does not protect women.

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Olga Lesnik

Kansas Resident, Wichita State University Student

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

My name is Olga Lesnik, I am a 21-year old student at a local Kansas public university, and I am a proud Kansan. I oppose SB180 and I believe that it is prejudicial bi that is written to hurt the most vulnerable populations in our state.

The passage of this bill would irreversibly harm my community. As a member of public university, I am a passionate advocate for safe spaces on campus for all members. The passage of SB180 would result in discrimination and further stigmatize trans individuals. When thinking of taking care of our communities, we have to take care of every single one of us, even the people who we may disagree with. This bill is not just about a disagreement in political views, it's about fitting an individual into a framework and ideology that is inherently built against them. I want my friends, my peers, my schoolmates, my professors to be saved from harassment that the passage of this bill will result in. My community members get bullied and hurt for simply being themselves and trying to survive the constant attacks that they have to experience based on their identity.

Thank you taking the time to read my testimony. I want to remind you that I am writing to you as your constituent, as a Kansas resident, and as a young person who wants to continue living in Kansas that is save to me and those I love. I appreciate you considering this testimony, and I hope that you will take my commentary with the seriousness that it deserves.

Rev. Joanna Harader
Peace Mennonite Church
615 Lincoln Street
Lawrence, KS 66044

March 6, 2023

Testimony in opposition to SB 180

My name is Rev. Joanna Harader and I serve as pastor of Peace Mennonite Church in Lawrence, KS. I am submitting this testimony in opposition to SB 180, which seeks to establish rigid and harmful definitions of gender.

As a pastor, I resist the state's attempt to limit God's creation of a diverse humanity to the proposed definitions of "man" and "woman." Each individual's body is fearfully and wonderfully made, with broad variations in: the presence and functionality of body parts, including reproductive organs and genitalia; hormone levels; physical size; emotional responses; internal desires; and understandings of identity. To reduce this diversity to two artificially constructed categories is deeply harmful to people of all genders.

This bill is labeled the "women's bill of rights," but there is no aspect of the bill which would actually enhance my rights as a woman. The legal erasure of transgender and non-binary people will not further my rights, but merely take away rights from people that I love and countless others across the state. For those in the legislature who are sincerely concerned with women's rights, I urge you to pass legislation that will foster justice and equity among people of all genders, races, and life situations.

Please do not support SB 180. It will not protect the rights of Kansas women, but will be a force for the oppression of many.

Thank you for your time today.

Sincerely,

Rev. Joanna Harader

Testimony in Opposition to SB 180 - "Women's Bill of Rights"
Rev. Melissa Woeppel, Lindsborg, KS
House Committee on Health and Human Services, Monday, March 6, 2023

To the Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

I am the Rev. Melissa Woeppel from Lindsborg, KS, serving as Campus Pastor at Bethany College. I write to you as a woman, who this bill claims to represent and protect. I also write to you as a pastor of people who would not find themselves represented by this legislation. For these reasons, I urge you to oppose SB180.

I am a cisgender, heterosexual woman. That is who I know myself to be. It is my deeply rooted faith that compels me to regard the humanity of others, even as they understand themselves differently than I understand myself. As I read Scripture, I hear and know of the rich diversity of creation that reflects the very image of God. Such goodness of who we were created to be cannot be limited to a complementarian or binary understanding of sex and gender.

This bill doesn't name transgender, gender fluid, or non-binary people as the target of this legislation; yet if they are not the target, what is the point of this bill? I cannot abide by this attempt to pit women against the LGBTQIA+ community, as if my safety comes at the expense of their oppression. Policies that prevent assault do not need to be gendered. Any person assaulting any person sexually is already committing a crime and we can address it without this law.

Additionally, students and members of my community deserve to be able to fully participate in work, school, and public life. Public facilities should be accessible to everyone, regardless of their gender identity or expression. No one should have to worry about finding a restroom they can use in their own place of residence or employment.

If this is really about supporting and protecting women, I have some alternative legislative suggestions. Enact gun reform so that every month, 70 women won't be shot and killed by a domestic partner. Expand Medicaid coverage so that over 40,000 women living in poverty could have access to preventative and life-saving healthcare.

Rather than creating false divisions, we must act out of the truth that our humanity is bound up with our siblings' humanity. Let us put our effort toward working for the common good, rather than continuing to enact policies of oppression and marginalization. Again I urge you to vote no on SB180.

Thank you.

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Sam Ryland

Parent, partner and tax payer.

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

As a citizen of Kansas and a lifetime learner and as a partner and as a parent, the bill represents ignorance of science and truth and devalues the state and its education on this I oppose this bill.

This bill will demean my children's education as it presents and represents falsehoods as science, based on the feelings of a few who have not taken the time to learn facts. Biological Sex and sociological gender exist outside of binaries and Attempting to legislate against facts sets a presedent that would lead to continued degradation of our already under served school systems.

My children and the states children will be at a loss nationally and internationally as this bill will set our education standards back before the age of reason.

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Scott Kohl

Kansas Resident

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

My name is Scott Kohl. I am a lifelong resident of Kansas, born in Trego County, former resident of Trego, Ellis, and Riley Counties, and current resident of Pottawatomie County. I'm testifying in opposition to SB180.

The basic premise of this bill is that human beings are ultimately defined by their set of reproductive organs at birth and that this bill provides framework for women's rights. Frankly, I disagree with nearly every word in this bill. Humans aren't defined by our reproductive organs. We're defined by our actions and emotions. That this bill assumes vulnerability to physical violence and sexual assault is related to one's reproductive organs is a gross oversimplification of a complex factors. In reality, those types of illegal behavior are taught and learned social responses to specific mental and physical stimuli. People don't rape because of their reproductive organs. Rapists rape because of emotional distress and mental illness, neither of which are addressed in this bill.

The implication that this bill guarantees rights for women is entirely false. In fact, it does precisely the opposite. Condemning a person to a predetermined destiny based on their reproductive organs while ignoring the person's emotions, wishes, and actions is an infringement of that person's rights as a human being. This bill asserts that the chosen identity of transgender humans are somehow less valid than the identity of CIS-gender humans. This notion is a fundamental violation of the basic human rights established in the Unites States Declaration of Independence, that all 'humans' are created equal.

If this legislative body intends to promote rights for the people of Kansas then it ought to consider legislation that embraces all humans and treats them equally regardless of their differences in appearance and social status. Create legislation that protects the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for those less fortunate such as the homeless, jobless, neglected seniors, veterans, and socially disadvantaged.

In closing, I am opposed to passing SB180. Thank you for your time.

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Skye Baxter

Kansas Resident

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

My name is Skye Baxter. I am a resident of Kansas and a trans woman. I am in my mid-40s and have been medically transitioning for the past year, living authentically for a year beyond that. I am writing this to state that SB 180 is cruel, hateful, and absolutely terrifying to me and to every trans person I know.

I've read through SB180. The statements made in the bill are inaccurate, insulting to women, and disregard modern biological science. In addition, it relies on statements that have no basis in fact. I'm not writing today to go into detail about the science though, as I know there are other testimonies from those with better credentials than I that will happily provide that detail.

Instead, I want to tell you about myself. I knew I was different when I was little. I didn't like boy things. I didn't feel like a boy. If I parents caught me doing anything that was remotely feminine though, I had it beaten out of me. I had it beaten out of me so hard that I became extremely opposed to anything that was perceived as feminine. I hated the color pink because I was supposed to as a boy. I grew into my teenage boy body, and my body developed in a way that felt "wrong" to me, but I didn't know why. This was the 90s and I didn't have the words to express it. If it slipped out in my actions that something seemed feminine, it was beaten out of me.

That femininity escaped again in the early 2000s, and this time it was the woman I was married to at the time that ridiculed and abused me to the point where it again went into hiding, and it stayed hidden into my 40s. I lived a miserable life, unable to feel any but the most basic emotions, and even those were muddy and unable to be expressed. I hated the way I looked, didn't take care of my body, didn't care about clothing.

When my feminine self finally broke free again, the world changed for me. Hormone therapy affected my brain long before changes started appearing on my body. I was able to, for the first time in my life, feel emotions clearly. The sadness I had felt my entire life lifted. I felt real true

joy. I can feel joy I never knew existed, love that nearly makes my heart burst. I can cry, something that I was physically unable to do while my body was still flooded with testosterone.

I write all of the above to give you an idea of the hell I went through being forced into the life of someone I was not, and the joy I find in life being who I am now.

I was born with certain body parts. Those parts do not make me a man. You would say I am biologically male, while I and any scientist with knowledge of the brain will tell you that I am neurologically female.

With all that said, let me tell you what this bill means to me. Will it make women around me safer? Not in the least, because I have no desire to hurt anybody. Will it make it difficult for me to find a place to use a restroom? Absolutely. Will it put my life in danger, if you require me - a person that dresses and looks like a woman, who has the hormones of a woman, and the muscle strength of a woman - to use a men's restroom? It will almost certainly put my life in danger. I would be very likely to be beaten to hospitalization or even death. I just want a place to pee. There is no evidence that shows that trans women in women's restrooms is a danger to cisgender women.

If, God forbid, I somehow end up in prison, putting me in a men's prison is a death sentence. I have no doubt of this.

I belong in women's spaces because I *am* a woman. The anti-trans fearmongering being spread by Republicans is putting my life in danger. Even if this bill does not pass, the fact that it is being considered at all is dehumanizing to me and to my trans brothers and sisters. It puts a target on my back, and I will be blunt in saying that your consideration of this bill at all terrifies me.

In closing, I am absolutely opposed to the passing of SB 180 as it puts in danger myself and every trans person in this state, any cisgender woman that might be considered not feminine enough, and the lives of our supportive families.

I want to thank the members of this committee for taking the time to read my testimony. My being trans is not a choice, but the way my life is affected by this bill is your choice. I hope that your empathy shows you the right choice on this bill.

Stephanie Byers Written Only Opponent Testimony to SB 180

Chair Landwehr, Ranking Minority Susan Ruiz, and members of the committee,

Thank you for fully reading my opposition testimony.

“...Helmer’s comments about sharing a restroom with a transgender colleague are an apparent reference to Rep. Stephanie Byers, a Wichita Democrat and the state’s first transgender legislator.

“Now, personally I do not appreciate the huge transgender female who is now in our restrooms in the Capitol,” Helmer wrote. “It is quite uncomfortable. I have asked the men if they would like a woman in their restroom and they freaked out. Just to make my point — I went into their restroom one day. They were all standing in a circle talking but they all in unison started screaming like girls ‘Cheryl – you’re in the men’s restroom!’ It was quite apparent by their bright red faces that they were extremely embarrassed that I had entered ‘their territory’.”

<https://kansasreflector.com/2022/04/25/kansas-republican-complains-about-sharing-statehouse-restroom-with-transgender-female/>

This was my real life experience during the final part of the ’22 legislative session. I gave 14 interviews, most of them national, during the following week. Even now, if I give an interview, this incident is brought up and often referenced letting me relive this trauma over and over.

So why would I bring this up in testimony opposing this bill? The person who introduced this bill to the Kansas Legislature has said this about it: “it does not deal with gender identity. It simply says that in existing statute or law, where there is a definition of sex, it means biological male and female as determined at birth. That’s very factual; it’s very objective”. While I would like to take them at their word for this, every person that gave proponent testimony in the Senate committee mentioned how this would remove women, who happen to be transgender, from having the same rights under the law as women, who happen to be cisgender.

While the out-of-state originators of this bill claim to have polling showing that Kansans back this bill, when I looked at their website for the poll, the standard deviations, how and when the poll was done, all I found were polls where the reader of the website was asked to participate, hardly a randomly selected group. A basic level college survey course would reject any poll like that as it is targeted at biased responders.

If SB 180 were to pass, it would create danger for women like me. I would be relegated to being male, in every possible public accommodation due to the language in this bill. In the case of restrooms, I would be forced to use the men's room. I, like many women like me, have breasts, a vagina and no testes. Why would we even consider a bill that would intentionally place people in places of danger? If I were to be sexually assaulted by a man would that be considered a rape or would it be reduced to sexual battery, since the crime would technically be one of same sex, which is only a misdemeanor in Kansas? The statistics show that Transgender people are subjected to violence at FOUR TIMES the rate as the general public. If they are a trans person of color, that rate is even higher, if they, like me, are a trans woman of color, the rate climbs again.

If SB 180 were to pass, what happens to those with the karyotypes of X and incomplete X resembling a Y or XXY? Commonly known as Turner's Syndrome and Klinefelter's Syndrome. How would these individuals be classified? Rarely do those with Turner's possess functioning Ova and are incapable of creating a child without outside help. Many people with Klinefelter's possess ovatestes... How would they be classified. While the bill says the determination of sex would be the same as the sex determined "at birth", that determination is typically made by inspection of anatomy. What happens if the persons hormonal or karyotype is different than their visible anatomy? How are they classified?

While this bill purports to help create a safer environment for women – the majority of whom have no difficulty being in the same space as a trans person of the same gender – why not legislate the availability of a single occupant facility for those that are "quite uncomfortable" possibly being in the same space as someone whose known identity may be different than their sex assigned at birth?

This bill, the ban on affirmative healthcare for trans youth and the ban on girls, who happen to be trans, from affirming their gender through sports are simply the latest attempts to erase the 14000+ Kansas citizens who are transgender.

The group that first proposed this legislation – Independent Women's Voices/Law/Forum, maybe linked to Kansas as it was first funded via the KOCH brothers, but is not based in Kansas and certainly doesn't reflect Kansas values. Please stand up for actual Kansans and reject this bill. Don't create a law that does the opposite of "Do No Harm".

According to the American Bar Association: "Expression of LGBT Identity Is Constitutionally Protected Speech.

For LGBT people in particular, speech and expressive conduct are important to their ability to affirm their identities, exercise autonomy, and participate equally and with dignity in society. Courts recognize that speech or expression that discloses a person's sexual orientation or gender identity, sometimes referred to as "coming out speech," is a profoundly valuable viewpoint entitled to First Amendment protections. People may be more familiar with protections granted to "coming out speech" related to sexual orientation than gender identity. For example, courts have held that coming out as LGB to an employer is speech, and similarly that students' desire to engage in conduct that reveals their sexual orientation is entitled to protection. As far back as 1974, for example, in *Gay Students Org. of U. of New Hampshire v.*

Bonner, 367 F. Supp. 1088 (D.N.H. 1974), a federal court in New Hampshire granted protection to a gay student group on the theory that gay students coming together for social events constituted expressive conduct and association protected under the First Amendment.

Transgender people are entitled to the same protections. Measures that target a transgender person's disclosure of their transgender status (one's right to state "I am trans") for adverse treatment are content-based restrictions on speech. Further, a person's right to define and express their gender through their appearance (for example, the right of both a transgender or cisgender women share to wear a dress or a suit and express themselves in accordance with their identity) is protected free expression. Courts increasingly have acknowledged the First Amendment principles at stake with respect to policies denying transgender people the ability to live openly in accordance with their gender identities or chilling their protected speech and expression." Identity is more than who you know yourself to be, it is also who others perceive you to be and the interactions contained within that relationship. By legislating identity as this bill proposes, it certainly impacts a person's pursuit of happiness.

It seems very clear that if this bill were to pass it would set itself up to be a violation of the first amendment.

Finally, as I've described above, there is a richness of spectrum in all the ways that our biology, as human beings, is made up. If we choose to restrict the definitions of man/woman/male/female/father/mother to only one area of a binary that isn't actually binary, then what? How long before we go back to the early twentieth century idea of "one drop" to classify our fellow humans? While this bill may not be talking about race and ethnicity, it can easily open itself up to similar conclusions as it, like those promoting a separation of races, uses incomplete understandings of what makes us humans, being.

Please reject this legislation,

Stephanie Byers

She/Her

Former member of the Kansas House of Representatives, 86th District

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Susan Thomas

Kansas Resident

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

My name is Susan K. Thomas, a Kansas resident, and I oppose SB180 because it targets transgender people.

SB180 is advancing a scientifically inaccurate definition of "woman/female" based on a random assortment of biological characteristics that does not hold up to any actual scrutiny or scientific facts. Any characteristic someone uses to define "woman" is invariably going to leave out myriads of cis and trans women and/or include people that they aren't trying to include. This bill also completely fails to acknowledge the existence of intersex people. The goal of the bill is to legislate gender and therefore make trans people legally not exist.

I oppose this legislation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Terese Quenette

KS resident, parent, teacher

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

My name is Terese and I've been a Kansas teacher for 15 years. I oppose bills like this which seek to identify physical sex as something simple and straightforward as part of biology and gender.

Growing up, I would have supported this bill. However, in sociology class, I learned the actual definition of "gender" and discovered it refers to cultural norms and not physical body. Then I discovered the scientific term "intersex" and discovered people are physically born with bodies and hormones that do not match the "male or female" options science most commonly gives us. As I look at my children and students, I realize my eyes and mind cannot and should not focus on putting them into categories based on the body parts they arrive with at birth. Sure, intersex people and transgender people are rare—but they ARE Kansans. These are not people with bodies we should force into categories and tell to pick a side. We live in a world that is black, white, and GRAY. Our nights and days have DAWN and DUSK. Let Kansans live in the bodies and minds they've got. Oppose this bill.

I oppose this bill on the grounds that it doesn't follow the science or sociology behind intersex and gender. Thank you for taking a moment with me to recall that science isn't simply two sexes and noting the existence of dawn and dusk rather than just night and day.

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Tracy Cooper

Kansas Resident

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

I'm a Kansas resident, who believes that Trans people deserve all the rights that every other citizen gets.

Given the current drive against Trans people having full rights, I feel that I must oppose SB180. Body does not override mind, and if someone believes that they are a different gender than they were assigned at birth, then no one has the right to force them to act otherwise.

Trans people deserve rights, and no government interference in how they identify.

March 6;2023 1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Whitney Lohrenz

Kansas resident

SB180

Opponent, Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Opponent testimony on SB180.

I am a lifelong resident of Kansas and a cisgender woman. I believe this bill will be incredibly harmful for all Kansas, trans and cis alike.

This bill does not protect the rights of women, it restricts the rights of women who don't meet its narrow definition of what a woman is. It will cause harm to the most vulnerable women in our state. This bill does nothing to protect women from men but instead make some women more vulnerable by excluding them from women's spaces.

Passing this bill would cause harm to all women of Kansas. Thank you for considering my testimony.