

Senate Education Committee

March 17, 2023

Subject: Proponent testimony: SB 255 – written only

Madame Chairwoman Baumgardner and Senate Education Committee,

Thank you for hearing this bill. I believe this is an important issue of safety for school age students. I support SB 255 and I urge your support.

Students should be protected in hotel rooms by rooming only with those of the same biological sex. While I do sympathize for students who are questioning their gender, it is unfair to make other students feel uncomfortable or unsafe for the sake of one person. I know of a Kansas biological girl who experienced this very scenario. She didn't know until arriving at the away location who her roommate would be and she was uncomfortable rooming with someone that is a biological male by birth. She requested to change rooms and was told no. The trip was very uncomfortable and ruined for her.

Please set the standard by requiring separate rooms or private rooms in situations such as this so all parties can feel safe and protected. Please do not choose to prioritize one small people group while ignoring the majority. If you choose not to pass this bill, children will be left vulnerable so please pass this from committee and vote yes.

Sincerely,

Tabitha Clark

Senate District 16