

Statement by Samuel Paunetto
Opposition Testimony for SB208
Senate Education Committee
Feb. 23, 2021

As a practicum clinical social worker, and as a former ordained minister and theologian for almost 20 years, I oppose this transphobic bill (SB 208).

This bill is not informed by the academic consensus on this topic. It opposes the consensus of all the medical/mental health associations in our nation. It opposes the protocols established by public health guidelines for suicide prevention on high risk youth populations.

This bill is informed by an anti-science, anti-academia sentiment, that lately seems to be the only source of information for every bill introduced by the GOP in Kansas.

We want to see a Kansas legislature that is only informed by the academic consensus of both the social and natural sciences.

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