



**Taryn Jones, Equality Kansas Lobbyist  
Testimony in Opposition of HB 2376  
House Committee on Local Government  
Hearing date – February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 9:00**

Dear Local Government Committee,

My name is Taryn Jones. I am one of the lobbyists for Equality Kansas. I am writing to oppose HB 2376. This bill seems very similar to another bill in this committee, HB 2174. It appears that the only difference between HB 2376 and HB 2174 is that HB 2376 adds a section saying that cities cannot have stricter laws than the Kansas Act Against Discrimination.

This is blatant overreach to invalidate the non-discrimination ordinances that the LGBTQ community worked so hard to get passed. The authors of this bill seem to be saying we'll give you what you want, but only if you allow us to discriminate against a vulnerable population.

It's interesting that there is another bill in the legislature dealing with abortions that says that cities can create stricter rules than the legislature. Why is local government ok only when it's something you agree with? These blatant attacks on the LGBTQ community are getting old. The LGBTQ community is just trying to live their life like everyone else. We don't want extra rights or protections. We just want the same rights as the rest of the state. Why is that so much to ask?

I'm asking the committee to vote no on HB 2376 and to vote for HB 2174