Opponent Testimony of HB2238 For the Senate Education Committee March 6, 2023 Kim Bellemere Kansas Resident and Concerned Parent

Chair Baumgardner and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent written testimony on House Bill 2238.

As a parent of a transgender woman and a compassionate and concerned Kansan, I urge you to oppose this pointless bill.

This bill is one of many designed not to protect young women and girls, but to instead attack and further diminish an already marginalized group of Kansans. We all know this bill has nothing to do with protecting girls. Rather, it is an excuse to bully trans girls and further enshrine bigotry in our state statutes.

Multitudes of studies and evidence confirm that allowing trans girls to compete in girls' sports doesn't hurt anyone, but denying them the right to compete leads to harmful stereotyping, which harms cis gender girls as well.

Trans girls are girls. Period. But looking at the bill from a different angle, the implication that all boys or men, regardless of athletic ability, are inherently better at any sport than any girl or women is astoundingly misogynistic. That's one more reason why we know this bill isn't really about sports at all.

Please do the right thing and oppose HB2238. Trans girls and women are your constituents too, and they deserve the right a life free from bullying by their own state's leaders.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to provide testimony.