



Jerry Henn Assistant Executive Director - USA-Kansas and Kansas School Superintendents Association providing oral testimony.

Committee Chair Landwehr and Committee on Health and Human Services

Thank you for allowing USA Kansas and KSSA to provide oral testimony on SB 180. As written, we stand opposed to this bill.

SB 180, Women's Bill of Rights, states an individual at birth is assigned their sex. The bill continues to discuss other items of differences between females and males. In the US 13 states allow an 'x' on the birth certificate to identify sex as non-binary. Even more states are supporting students and parents who are struggling with gender identification, just because many can't identify with these issues, doesn't mean it doesn't exist.

USA-Kansas believes it is our responsibility in the public education sector to support and educate all children regardless of gender, beliefs, or background. Our goals are to take our students from pre-kindergarten to post-high school and provide them with the education necessary to allow all our students to grow into productive citizens. This in itself is a task not taken lightly. All students deserve a public education that enables them to learn and grow into the best image of themselves, the school never has nor should they be responsible to tell a child who they should be or which gender they should align.

Democrats, Republicans, and Independents alike for years have tried to element homeless and poverty. More often than not, the attempt comes from a bill and the stroke of a pen with a new law or support program. Almost 100 years later, it's not been laws that have reduced homeless or poverty, it was public education, and people working at the crux of the problem who made the difference.

This bill isn't going to solve the problem, it's not even going to put a band-aid on the problem. It creates a bigger issue while making a certain class of people feel more comfortable because they want to believe that there are no individuals in our world who struggle with their gender identification. These are issues best dealt with at the lowest level, legislation would only hinder the process not help it. Allowing these decisions to be made at the local level is a best practice. For this reason, USA Kansas stands opposed to this bill as written.