

HB 2792  
Amanda Feriante  
Kansas NOW, Vice President  
2/27/2024  
mandy.feriante@gmail.com  
WRITTEN ONLY  
OPPONENT

Thank you for your time and for considering my comments on HB 2792. I am an officer of Kansas NOW, and I encourage you to vote no on HB 2792.

Medical care is an extremely important, personal, individual decision that should be made between parents, children, and their doctors. Kansas is a wonderful state to live in and to raise a family, and this bill is a step in the wrong direction towards removing parental rights to determine medical care for their children. If passed, it will put young lives at unnecessary risk and be a factor for many families and medical professionals to avoid Kansas. This bill is poorly written, going against accepted medical principles, and would negatively impact the lives of Kansans and the medical care available in Kansas.

Thank you for considering my comments, and please vote "no" on HB 2792.

HB 2792  
Amy Bell  
Kansas NOW - President  
2/27/2024  
coordinator@ksnow.org  
Written Only  
Opponent

Thank you for taking the time to review this written testimony. My name is Amy Bell and I am the President of the Kansas National Organization for Women. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on HB 2792.

Kansas NOW strongly believes in the people's right to receive comprehensive, up to date, medical care. It is not the roll of the government to select medical standards without regard for the medical standards set by the medical profession. We believe that doctors are best qualified to set standards in medical care.

Please vote no to protect our right to receive the best medical care available according to medical experts - not our government.

HB 2792  
Amy Hill  
Private Citizen  
2/27/2024  
amykfrost@yahoo.com  
Written Only  
Opponent

Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee - thank you for allowing me to provide testimony on HB 2792. My name is Amy Hill and I live in Olathe, KS. I encourage you to vote no on HB 2792.

Gender affirming care is crucial to support kids and families who need it. Imagine if your child came to you and needed your support to navigate the path of their gender identity. I think any parent wants to support their child to be the person they want to be, especially if it was causing that child mental anguish to hide part of themselves. You would have questions about the best way to support your child. Most parents don't have the answers to these questions but the care that doctors and mental health specialists can provide for these families is evidence-based, medically necessary, and safe and every major medical association advocates against bills like this.

I have people in my life who are transgender and the decisions they and their families make regarding how they present themselves to the world are not decisions they take lightly. But it is so important to them to be who they are that they are willing to face the backlash from so many others, including people who support bills like these. Patients, families, and their doctors should have the freedom to make their own private medical decisions. Allowing medical and mental health professionals to provide support as kids and families navigate their gender identity gives them the expert guidance they need to make informed and safe decisions. Please don't take that away from them - becoming who you are meant to be in life is hard enough for all kids and teens, don't make it harder by removing life-saving and affirming resources.

Thank you for your consideration. Please vote on on the passage of HB 2792.

Thank you,  
Amy Hill  
Olathe, KS

HB 2792  
Angie Powers  
Private citizen  
3/5/2024  
angierpowers@gmail.com  
Written only  
Opponent

Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2792. My name is Angie Powers; I am a voter and mother in Johnson County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on HB 2792

As a mother to a non-binary adult, this bill concerns me greatly. Let families and medical professionals make medical decisions that work for the children they care for. While my family did not choose to seek gender-affirming care for my child when they were a minor, I do not believe that politicians are more qualified to make this decision than medical professional or me. One my child's friends in high school did seek gender-affirming care based on his family and medical team's advice, and he often shared with me how the care not only helped his physical health but also his mental health. But he didn't need to tell me how he benefited because I saw it in the way he talked & the way he carried himself. He seemed happier and more himself. While I do not really understand what it's like to be transgender or non-binary, I do respect the families' and medical professionals' expertise on this issue. I ask you to do the same.

Thank you again for considering my perspective on this bill. Please vote no on HB 2792.

HB 2792  
Ashley Bloom, MD  
East Heights Family Care, Family Physician  
2/27/2024  
dr.ashleybloom@gmail.com  
WRITTEN ONLY  
OPPONENT

Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for reading my thoughts about HB 2792. My name is Dr. Ashley Bloom. I am a voter & Family Physician in Douglas County who cares for Kansans across our state. I encourage the committee to vote no on HB 2792 and protect medical freedom for Kansans.

HB 2792 undermines best medical practices by requiring medical providers to follow outdated professional guidelines. As physicians, we are constantly learning to keep up with safest, best treatments for our patients. Politicians do not have the education, training, and professional experience to provide medical care for patients. This bill infringes on the privacy and freedom of the patient and physician relationship to determine the most appropriate, safest plan of care for youth with gender dysphoria.

Kansas youth, parents and families deserve the freedom to work with their physicians to access health care. Kansas physicians and medical providers are duty-bound to provide best evidence treatment plans to their patients.

HB 2792 directly obstructs the freedom of youth and families to access healthcare, and their medical care teams from delivering safe, modern, life saving medical care.

Once again, thank you for hearing my thoughts on this bill. Please vote no on the passage of HB 2792. Thank you.

HB 2792  
Beth Roselyn  
Private Citizen  
2/27/2024  
beth.roselyn@gmail.com  
WRITTEN ONLY  
OPPONENT

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to provide you with my testimony on HB 2792. My name is Beth Roselyn and I am a voter in Douglas County. I am writing you today to encourage you all to vote no on HB 2792.

HB 2792 will cause real harm to children in the state of Kansas. Gender-affirming care is life-saving care for trans people and we have a right to access this care and to be treated with dignity by healthcare professionals. Every major medical association in the US, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, opposes legislation that bans or limits gender affirming healthcare for minors because they recognize that trans youth deserve access to evidence-based, affirming healthcare that can improve their self-esteem, health, and quality of life, and even save their lives.

Doctors should have the right to do their jobs based on what science and evidence-based best practices tell them is best for their patients. Doctors swear an oath to do no harm and this bill would require doctors to harm their patients in the service of discriminatory policies promoted by politicians. No politician has the right to get between a doctor and the patients and families they dedicate their lives to caring for. The state does not have the right to assert control over our bodies and this legislation takes away the right of self-determination for trans kids and their families.

This bill singles out trans kids for unequal, unjust treatment, not allowing them access to care that intersex and cisgender kids will continue to have access to. This is just plain old discrimination and should not be supported by the state of Kansas.

Thank you very much for your time and attention. Please vote no on HB 2792. Vote no on discrimination. Thank you.

HB 2792  
Bonnie Anderson  
Private citizen  
2/27/2024  
bonanderson2020@gmail.com  
Written only  
Opponent

Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2792 with you today. My name is Bonnie Anderson and I am a voter in Johnson County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on HB 2792.

I am opposed to big government and its interference with doctors and the freedoms of individuals. I do not believe this will result in better care, but quite the opposite. These are complex medical issues that belong between a family and their physicians.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of HB 2792. Thank you.

February 25, 2024

HB2792

Proponent

Written Only

Brenda Smart

Chairwoman Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Please pass this bill favorably.

This bill will protect children and minors from procedures that could leave them with life-long health compromised conditions and bodily changes that are irreversible.

No minor should receive surgery that will affect their future reproductive abilities! Please protect our children.



HB 2792  
Brooklyn Walker  
Private citizen  
2/25/2024  
brooklyn.evann.walker@gmail.com  
Written only  
Opponent

Chairman Landwehr and the Members of the Committee, Thank you for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2792. My name is Brooklyn Walker and I am a voter in Reno County. I am writing to encourage the committee to vote no on HB 2792.

I am deeply concerned by HB 2792's intrusion into the medical decisions of the families of transgender children. Gender affirming care is evidence based and supported by the leading medical authorities in the country. Moreover, it is the result of careful collaboration between a child, their parents/guardians, and a team of physical and mental health care professionals, most of whom are highly specialized in the provision of gender affirming care.

Should this bill pass, it will have serious implications for civil and parental rights. Civil rights requires that the state treat all citizens equally under the law. This bill prohibits medical care for transgender children, but would permit the same care procedures for cisgender children. HB 2972 does not provide equal treatment under the law.

This bill also threatens parental rights. Parents, not the state, are ultimately responsible for their children. Kansas has a strong culture of individual choice and independence, especially for parents making choices for their own families. This bill takes that right away from parents of transgender kids.

Even families that do not have transgender children, like my own, are also alarmed. If a fraction of the Kansas legislature can dictate the types of medical care transgender children can receive, there is no promise that the intrusion stops there. Many other decisions made between children, their parents, and their medical professionals can also come under scrutiny of the Kansas legislature (like Covid and HPV vaccines or birth control pills for teens with irregular menstrual cycles). The snowball of government intrusion grows beyond medical care. If parents can't make decisions about the health care of their kids, will they lose the right to make other decisions about their children, such as whether they attend public school, private school, or are homeschooled?

I trust Kansas parents, health care providers, and kids (transgender and cisgender) to make the best choices for themselves. This approach also has the benefit of protecting the civil rights of all Kansans.

Once again, thank you for hearing my thoughts. I encourage you to vote no on the passage of HB 2792. Thank you.

HB 2792  
Campbell McNorton  
Private Citizen  
2/29/2024  
campbellmcnorton@gmail.com  
Written Only  
Opponent

Thank you for taking time to read through my testimony and consider my opinion on HB 2792. My name is Campbell McNorton and I am a voter in Pottawatomie County. I am writing today in opposition to HB 2792 and to urge the committee to vote no.

To begin, I am a young, LGBTQ+ voter in the state of Kansas who loves to live here. Growing up here, I have always been proud to be a Kansan, as I've seen many people uphold our state origins of a welcoming state for everyone. However, if HB 2792 were to pass, I would have to rethink my future plans to live in Kansas. As the bill would ban life saving care for my present community and my future children if they were trans.

Gender-affirming care is life saving care for trans people, I've seen it first hand. It is especially important for young trans people in need of affirmation, love, and acceptance. This practice is proven to be medically safe and has allowed for young people in the state of Kansas to feel safe in their bodies, homes, and schools. Trans youth that do receive gender-affirming care have better futures as they participate better in school, their community, and their family homes. Without this support, they are at a much higher risk for substance abuse, depression and anxiety, and suicide.

HB 2792 would take away all access for trans youth to feel like themselves and remove parents, families, and medical providers from making the best choices for trans youth. Additionally, 98% of young people who start gender-affirming care in adolescence continue as adults, as gender-affirming care is the only evidence-based means of treating transgender youth with gender dysphoria. It is greatly supported by medical and mental health professionals.

Furthermore, HB 2792 does not abide by recent nor the most comprehensive standards of care guidelines for gender-affirming care, Kansas healthcare providers would be forced to follow outdated protocols and guidelines. This would only harm Kansans as life-saving care would be taken away from them.

Thank you again for taking the time to read my testimony, and I urge you to vote no of the passage of HB 2792.

HB 2792

Cheryl Wagner

Private Citizen

2/23/2025

prettyinpinkwithcheryl@gmail.com

Gender affirming care is life saving care! Parents, parents, doctors and guardians should have the right to make their own health care and medical decisions, NOT politicians! Trans youth have the same rights and should have the same chance to thrive as their peers!

Opponent

Thank you for giving me the time to share my position on HB 2792. My name is Cheryl Wagner, and I ask a voter in Lyon County . I am writing to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2792!  
**SAVE OUR TRANS YOUTH!**

I have friends and family who would be affected by this bill. Being a child or teen these days is hard enough! We need to be supportive of our trans children! It could be someone YOU love, who this bill affects next!

Once again, I thank you for reading my comments and thoughts on this bill. I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of HB 2792. Thank you!

HB 2792  
Chloe Chaffin  
Private Citizen  
2/27/2024  
chloechaffin27@gmail.com  
Written Only  
Opponent

Chair Landwehr and members of the committee, thank you for taking the time today to read my remarks on HB 2792. I am Chloe Chaffin, a voter and student in Topeka, and I am asking you to please vote no on HB 2792.

Even before passed, the media and signaling power of bills like these is so incredibly powerful and so incredibly harmful. Queer and trans youth see that their elected officials treat the regulation of their bodies as a state priority in ways that their inclusion and mental health are not similarly prioritized and it sends a strong message that they are different and wrong and not welcome here. I do not believe that that is the case.

I care a lot about the reputation of "midwestern nice". I think our communities are broadly kind and supportive places where neighbors want to see each other thrive, but it is a wretched shame that those with the most power amongst us don't see it that way. The message that this continuous debate sends queer kids is that they ought to hurry up and move away just as soon as they have the chance. Unfortunately, many of them will listen and do just that if we continue down this path. Though even then, moving may be the least bad option for some of these kids as their ridicule and societal rejection can be so damaging to their mental health that they take drastic measures such as self-harm or suicide if the violence does not come from the outside first. Failure to intervene in SUPPORT of the victimized and hurting children makes the legislature complicit.

Mandating the use of the 2017 Clinical Practice Guidelines from the Endocrine Society also shows that our leaders don't believe in science and expertise. That education and hard study and revision do not matter here because we can just rest up and ignore newer guidelines as they come in.

We have never in our nation's history been as kind to and understanding of trans kids as we ought to be, so why would we lock ourselves into outdated guidelines? That shows a lack of academic curiosity or vigorous interest in doing one's job as far as I can tell. We need to be a state willing to stand with science, stand with children, and position ourselves as a national leader. I want to be proud of my home state, not embarrassed when we fall behind, but right now I am not confident in the way these bills are going.

Leave private medical decisions up to individuals and their doctors. Everything about this is not just hateful and harmful, but Exhibit A of big government overreach in our communities. Let's just agree to trust our neighbors when they tell us who they are. I never thought that was too much to ask. Just kindness, respect, and privacy. That's all.

Again, thank you for your attention. Please vote no on the passage of HB 2792 and all similar bills attacking trans Kansans. These bills are hurtful and unpopular. Thank you.

HB2792  
Colleen Cunningham  
Private Citizen  
2/27/2024  
colleen@demod.com  
Written Only  
Opponent

Chair Landwehr and Committee Members, Thank you for providing time for me to share my thoughts on HB2792 with you today. My name is Colleen Cunningham and I am a mom of 3 young kids in Overland Park. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB2792.

The bottom line to me is that gender-affirming care is life-saving care. This bill puts that care at risk, which means if it is passed, it is (and legislators who support it are) putting the lives of Kansas children at risk. Medical organizations across the country advocate against bills like this because they know that research shows that medical care for gender dysphoria is safe, medically necessary, and again, saves lives.

Once again we see legislation which seeks to meddle in individuals' medical decisions, seemingly on the basis of religious beliefs held by some, but not all, Kansans. It is my deeply held religious belief that medical decisions should be made by individuals, in conjunction with their medical provider(s), and any other people they wish to include. It is not the role of the Kansas legislature, which does not hold medical expertise as a body, to make medical decisions. Doing so threatens the wellbeing of our children, the safety of our communities, and the ability of every family to determine what's best for their child.

Finally, this bill is discriminatory, in that it denies medical care to trans youth, while still being accessible to cisgender and intersex youth.

Again, I appreciate your taking the time to read my thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote NO on the passage of HB2792. Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB 2792  
Corey white  
Private citizen  
2/24/2024  
clw9286@gmail.com  
Written only  
Opponent

Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2792 with you today. My name is Corey White and I am a voter in Johnson County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on HB 2792

Medical decisions should never be a discussion that politicians should be deciding for others. These decisions are private, personal, and to be decided only by the individual, their families and their doctor. I would not ask my politician to make decisions about my care or my children's care for any other medical reason and gender care should be included in that.

Thank you again for considering my testimony and understanding the importance of separating medical policies from political agendas.

# Legislative Testimony

## In Opposition of HB 2792

House Committee on Health and Human Services

February 29, 2024

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Committee Chair and Members of the Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony here today on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas. I'm D.C. Hiegert, a lawyer, and the LGBTQ+ legal fellow with the ACLU of Kansas. We are a nonpartisan, non-profit organization that works to preserve and strengthen the civil rights and liberties of every person in our state.

The ACLU of Kansas stands strongly opposed to HB 2792 and urges you to not vote this bill out of committee. Not only does HB 2792 violate the state and federal constitutional rights of Kansas children and their parents, but it imposes a single guideline upon *all types* of licensed medical professionals providing “transgender care services” to *any* transgender person in Kansas—whether a minor or not.

HB 2792 bans transgender youth from receiving various types of gender-affirming surgeries by threatening physicians who may provide such care with licensure revocation or penalties. Notably, the bill does not ban the same types of surgeries for cisgender or intersex minors—it singles out transgender minors for different treatment. The bill goes on to mandate that every healthcare provider who provides “transgender care services”—from therapists to physicians—must do so in accordance with the guidance outlined in the Endocrine Society’s 2017 clinical practice guidelines.

This is extremely concerning for a myriad of reasons. Namely, it is beyond government overreach for legislators to select and codify medical guidelines into law—as the medical field requires specific knowledge and expertise, and clinical practice standards vary greatly across each of these fields of practice (from therapists to psychiatrists to pediatric doctors to OBGYNs to endocrinologists). We cannot expect legislators to understand these medical intricacies enough to uniformly dictate how *all* medical professionals should provide “transgender care services”—nor should we. This issue should be left to the medical professionals themselves, who have the skills and training to understand the accepted practice guidelines and standards of care in their chosen field, and who are able to mold their practices to comport with those evolving guidelines and standards.

Instead of entrusting Kansas medical professionals to do their jobs in accordance with best practice medical standards, HB 2792 selects one specific set of practice guidelines and forces all healthcare providers to comply with them. We want to make clear—we support ensuring that gender-affirming care, like all healthcare, is provided consistent with contemporary medical guidelines. But we do not support a legislative mandate specifying a certain standard fixed in time across every medical field.

Codifying such specific guidelines into law is unnecessarily restrictive—as the guidelines may grow outdated or change, requiring legislation to update them and bringing continual disruptions to healthcare providers who offer this care. For example, clinical guidelines are often updated or amended, as the 2017

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**ACLU**  
Kansas

# Legislative Testimony

## In Opposition of HB 2792

House Committee on Health and Human Services

February 29, 2024

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clinical guidelines included in HB 2792 were on two separate occasions.<sup>1</sup> Codifying practice guidelines into law hinders the ability of medical professionals to advance treatment consistent with science and stay up to date on best practices as they develop and change in their field. By codifying specific fixed guidelines, providers risk liability for either providing care that is inconsistent with state law *or* inconsistent with the current standards of care owed to their patients.

This bill strips families of their ability to make informed healthcare decisions for their children and forces Kansas healthcare professionals to comply with a single guideline that may not be written for their field of practice or may contradict their field's ethical requirements. The American Medical Association has called legislation similar to HB 2792 “**a dangerous governmental intrusion into the practice of medicine.**”<sup>2</sup>

In addition to opposition from leaders in the medical community, courts across the country have recognized that bills like HB 2792 violate the equal protection and due process rights of adolescents, their parents, and their medical providers. The Eighth Circuit and trial courts in Indiana, Montana, Texas, and Florida have all stopped similar laws from taking effect because of these asserted constitutional issues.<sup>3</sup> HB 2792 clearly discriminates on the basis of sex and transgender status and infringes upon the fundamental rights of Kansas parents—rights that many Kansas politicians have vehemently defended in other contexts. This discrimination means HB 2792 triggers the highest levels of constitutional scrutiny, and the state of Kansas will ultimately carry the burden of proving this bill advances compelling government interests.

We urge you not to support this unconstitutional bill that will likely create more costly litigation for the state and its already understaffed<sup>4</sup> Attorney General's office.

This bill sets a terrifying precedent by taking away parents' rights to make decisions about their children's medical care. It was not long ago that Kansans made it very clear that they do not want politicians infringing on their right to determine what healthcare is best for them. This bill flies in the face of the will of the people and violates Kansans' constitutional right to personal autonomy—a **right the Kansas Supreme Court has**

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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., <https://academic.oup.com/jcem/article/102/11/3869/4157558?login=false> (noting corrections were published in July 2018 and February 2018).

<sup>2</sup> *AMA reinforces opposition to restrictions on transgender medical care*, THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (June 15, 2021), <https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/press-releases/ama-reinforces-opposition-restrictionstransgender-medical-care>

<sup>3</sup> See, e.g., *Brandt v. Rutledge*, 47 F.4<sup>th</sup> 661, 671 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2022); *K.C. v. Individual Members of Med. Licensing Bd. of Indiana*, No. 123CV00595JPHKMB, 2023 WL 4054086 (S.D. Ind. June 16, 2023); *van Garderen v. State of Montana*, No. DV-23-541 (Montana 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Dist. Ct., Missoula County) (Sept. 27, 2023); *Lazaro Loe v. State of Texas*, No. D-1-GN-23-003616 (Dist. Ct. of Travis County, Texas, 201<sup>st</sup> Judicial District) (Aug. 25, 2023); *Doe v. Ladapo*, No. 4:23CV114-RH-MAF, 2023 WL 3833848 (N.D. Fla. June 6, 2023).



# Legislative Testimony

## In Opposition of HB 2792

House Committee on Health and Human Services

February 29, 2024

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said “includes the ability to control one’s own body, to assert bodily integrity, and to exercise self-determination.”<sup>5</sup>

You may not understand what it means to be transgender. You may think that it’s best to try and stop young people from growing into transgender adults. But even if that instinct is coming from a genuine place of care, passing a bill like HB 2792 does nothing to address those alleged concerns. It will not prevent transgender kids from being who they are. The only thing a bill like HB 2792 does is harm Kansas families and violate Kansans’ constitutional rights.

**HB 2792 would set a precedent that medical providers should not give you the best medical care available, but instead give you the medical care politicians decide you should have access to.** It would mean Kansas medical providers cannot do their jobs and would cause the public to lose faith in the quality of medical care they are being given.

While I am sharing this testimony as a constitutional lawyer with the ACLU of Kansas, I am also sharing this testimony as a lifelong Kansan and a transgender person. Accessing gender-affirming care is the reason I am alive, living a joyful and fulfilling life. It is the reason I graduated from a Kansas college and am now a licensed attorney with a law degree from the University of Kansas. Gender-affirming care has allowed me to become the person I am today and gave me the confidence to advocate for my fellow Kansans’ rights.

I love Kansas and am proud to call it my home. I know countless other trans people in the state that feel the same way. But bills like HB 2792 tell us that our state doesn’t love us back. People will not stop being transgender because Kansas bans this care or punishes its medical providers. Trans people will still exist in Kansas and in every state in our country, just as they always have. Please don’t make it harder for these young Kansans to live their dreams and contribute to our state, their families, and their communities. We urge you to oppose HB 2792.

Thank you.

D.C. Hiegert (they/he)  
LGBTQ+ Legal Fellow

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<sup>5</sup> See, *Hodes & Nauser, MDs, P.A. v. Schmidt*, 309 Kan. 610, 646 (2019).

February 27, 2024

HB 2792

Opponent Testimony (Written only)

Dear Madam Chair Landwehr and Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services,

I am an Opponent of HB 2792. Please vote against HB 2792.

Sincerely,

David Upsdell

House District #39

HB 2792  
DELANEY JONES  
Private Citizen  
2/24/2024  
delaneylu727@gmail.com  
WRITTEN ONLY  
OPPONENT

To Chairman Landwehr and the Members of the Committee,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to give testimony on House Bill 2792. My name is Delaney Jones and I am a student, constituent, and educator in Kansas. I write to you today to urge you and the committee to vote NO on HV 2792.

I oppose this bill because I strongly believe that medical care has no role in politics, and therefore politicians should have no say in what physicians, medical agencies, and peer-reviewed studies reinforce to be safe, effective, and useful healthcare.

While I do not wish to speak on the behalf of transgender individuals' experiences and lives, I do wish to express that those close to me who are transgender or gender nonconforming are able to live happy, fulfilling lives because of their access to healthcare and medical care. Access to critical services within the scope of gender-affirming care, including therapy and mental health services, should not be up for negotiation. All people, regardless of how they look or identify, deserve the right to access the healthcare that they (along with their physician) feel is best for them.

I implore you to vote against this bill as it is invasive, overreaching, and attempting to prevent critical healthcare from reaching the people who need it. Just as a medical doctor would not sit in the House or Senate and decide what laws to pass, legislators should not take the place of physicians and decide what medical care is appropriate. Medical care for gender dysphoria is evidence-based, safe, and effective, and therefore bills such as HB 2792, which seek to dismantle such healthcare, pose a serious risk to the health and lives of Kansans.

Thank you again for your time. I appreciate the consideration of my testimony and I hope that you take what I've said into consideration. I implore you to vote NO on the passage of HB 2792. Thank you.

HB 2792  
Donnavan Dillon  
Private Citizen  
2/27/2024  
donnavandillon1011@gmail.com  
Written Only  
Opponent

"Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on House Bill 2792, despite the cumbersome process required to do so. My name is Donnavan Dillon. I was born and raised in Lawrence, Kansas. I am a Junior at the University of Kansas pursuing a double major in political science and sociology. . I am gay and a proud member of the LGBTQ+ community, and I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on HB 2792".

The first major concern of House Bill 2792 is the fact that is legislating on an issue that doesn't exist and reinforcing false narratives around gender affirming care within the LGBTQ+ community. For the past several years medical professionals within the state, those who are at the forefront of medical care as it pertains to transgender youth, have made it known gender reassignment surgery is not something that occurs on minors within the state. Taking this into consideration and that the legislature should take into consideration the testimony of leading experts in the field closest to the proposed legislation at hand lines 9 through 28 have no purpose within this bill. With all of the pressing issues at hand the legislature should not waste its time creating legislation on issues that do not exist within the state. That is a waste of taxpayer dollars and takes away from the actual issues that face our state. Kansas voters and taxpayers put you in this building to create legislation that addresses real issues such as the rising cost of living, the environmental issues facing our farmers and water supply, and ensuring our schools and communities thrive. This needs to be the focus of your time and energy not reintroducing legislation that has failed year after year and had tremendous opposition from experts to everyday Kansans.

The next issue that arises in this bill is seen through the remainder of the bills language, but starts with lines New Section 1(c). This section required the adoption of the Endocrine Societies 2017 Clinical Practice Guidelines as they apply to "transgender care services". This is a major concern for several reasons. First, the guidelines the legislature are being asked to put into statute are not recent nor the most comprehensive guidelines we have to date. It is one gross overreach of power to use the legislative power to follow guidelines that are not the most comprehensive and up to date. In a rapidly evolving field such as gender affirming care it is essential for the care and safety of transgender Kansans we have the highest most up to date standards of care, not something developed nearly a decade ago. This is especially true when we know that gender affirming care is life saving care for members of the LGBTQ+ community. I urge the legislature to listen to the testimony provided by experts in the field as it relates to these standards and weight that testimony heavily if you truly believe in creating sound policy.

The legislature for several years have introduced bills banning transgender care for minors and adults as well as other attacks on the community from a policy standpoint. Yet year after year we see the same bills despite widespread opposition, especially from those opinions you should value the

most trans and nonbinary Kansans, their parents, and medical professionals. There has been a blatant attempt to hide this transphobia under the guise of "parents rights" or a genuine concern for children however it is the complete opposite. Why in a bill aimed at addressing gender affirming care are there no mentions of the gender affirming care cisgender men, women, and children receive. Care that we can agree has positive impacts on their self perception, confidence, and quality of life. Whether its growth hormones for a late bloomer or hair transplants or testosterone for aging men gender affirming care is most received by cisgendered people. A vote in favor of this bill is a vote in favor of discrimination, ostracism, and being a part of the state sanctioned attempts at erasing the transgender Kansans that make our state whole.

Because of this I urge you to vote in opposition to HB 2792.

February 28, 2024

Chairwoman Landwehr and House Health and Human Services Committee,

I am an opponent of HB 2792.

I see many adolescents with gender dysphoria in my sleep medicine clinic due to the high incidence of mental health struggles in this population which inevitably lead to insomnia. I am fully aware of their struggles and want to support them hence my testimony in opposition to HB 2792.

My sincere question to your committee is why are we in the United States, specifically in the state of Kansas, not learning from our European medical colleagues that have systematically pulled back from aggressive gender-affirming care including GnRH (Gonadotropin-Releasing hormone) analogs (puberty blockers), cross-sex hormones and transitioning surgeries in support of prioritization psychological support and patience. A systematic review of evidence published in April of 2023 in *Current Sexual Health Reports* by public health authorities in Finland, Sweden and England concluded that “the risk/benefit ratio of youth gender transition range from unknown to unfavorable.” Sweden Health Authorities stated, “the risk of puberty suppressing treatment with GnRH analogs and gender affirming hormone treatment currently outweigh the possible benefit.” The NHS in England removed the statements about the reversibility of GnRH analogs and now state, “little is known about the long-term side effects of cross sex hormones or puberty blockers in children with gender dysphoria.” Lastly, the French National Academy of Medicine’s recent press release stated, “the greatest reserve is required in their use (puberty blockers and cross sex hormones), given the side effects such as the impact on growth, bone fragility, risk of sterility, emotional and intellectual consequences and for girls symptoms reminiscent of menopause.” In addition to these countries, you also have similar actions in Norway, Netherlands, Denmark, France, Australia and New Zealand yet we want to move forward in Kansas?

We know that 61-98% of those managed with psychological support alone reconsider their gender identity with their biological sex during puberty. The current group of patients struggling with gender dysphoria are known to have significant psychological co-morbidities. Mills et al is often cited as showing that the use of GnRh analogs leads to reduced suicidality but this study has been critiqued many times and is a low-quality survey of transgender adults. As a matter of fact, the “Case Review” in 2020 commissioned by the NHS in England to assess the evidence for clinical effectiveness, safety and cost effectiveness of GnRH analog therapy for children and adolescents for gender dysphoria found that essentially all of the studies were small, uncontrolled, observational studies subject to bias and confounders resulting in very low certainty. This argument that treatment will prevent suicide or “wouldn’t you rather have an alive boy then a dead girl” is often abused to influence parents and even medical providers to rush into harmful, potential irreversible medical treatments. I am personally aware of a pediatric plastic surgeon who gave that very excuse for doing a double mastectomy of a young teenage girl.

Unfortunately, the medical profession I find myself apart of has forgotten that we are never to proceed with any treatment that could cause harm, let alone irreversible harm. If the academic medical centers can’t see this for themselves, we must ask why. This bill must be tabled and replaced by a bill that truly protects Kansas’ children by prioritizing psychological support and banning the use of puberty blockers, cross sex hormones and transitioning surgery for gender dysphoric minors by the medical profession.

Sincerely, Gayln Perry, MD

Overland Park, Johnson County, District 8

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HB 2792  
Dr. Briana McGeough  
Private Citizen  
2/26/2024  
briana.mcgeough@ku.edu  
Written Only  
Opponent

My name is Dr. Briana McGeough, and I am an Assistant Professor in the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare and the co-founder/director of the Center for LGBTQ+ Research and Advocacy. My testimony is offered in my personal capacity as an expert in the field of LGBTQ mental health and informed by my years of research and mental health practice in this field, not as a representative of the University of Kansas. My research focuses on understanding mental health challenges experienced by LGBTQ individuals, including transgender youth, and identifying strategies to promote the mental health and well-being of LGBTQ individuals.

I am testifying today because I strongly oppose HB 2792, and I am concerned about the impact that this policy could have on the mental health of transgender youth. Although I oppose this bill for many reasons, today I will focus on the body of research that shows the direct harm that this bill will have on the mental health of transgender youth and their ability to access essential healthcare.

A robust body of research, employing a variety of research methodologies, has found that having access to gender-affirming care has been linked to better mental health outcomes for transgender youth. These benefits include reductions in suicidality, depression, and gender dysphoria.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, youth who have had access to gender-affirming care earlier in life experience better mental health than youth who accessed care later in life,<sup>2</sup> suggesting the importance of opposing efforts to obstruct transgender youth's access to gender-affirming care. In sum, access to gender-affirming care is a critical aspect of promoting the mental health of transgender youth.

Furthermore, bills like this have an impact beyond their explicit aims. Firstly, although this bill only explicitly targets gender-affirming surgeries<sup>3</sup>, which constitute a very small portion of gender-affirming care accessed by transgender youth, policies such as this one that restrict access to gender-affirming care by threatening sanctions against healthcare providers have been found to have chilling effects whereby healthcare providers become less willing to provide legal, necessary, evidence-based procedures, out of fear of penalties and threats of violence.<sup>4</sup> Secondly, this bill is discriminatory as it denies essential, life-saving healthcare to transgender people on the basis of their membership to a vulnerable population. Such discriminatory legislation serves to perpetuate stigma against transgender people. Research has shown that living in a state with more laws that discriminate against transgender people is associated with greater levels of psychological distress and suicidality among members of the transgender community.<sup>5</sup> Furthermore, research conducted in Kansas shows that even merely proposing discriminatory policies, such as this one, harms transgender youth by exposing them to the message that they do not deserve equitable access to essential community support and resources.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Lee, J. Y., & Rosenthal, S. M. (2023). Gender-affirming care of transgender and gender-diverse youth: Current concepts. *Annual Review of Medicine*, 74, 107-116.



2 Sorbara, J. C., Chiniara, L. N., Thompson, S., & Palmert, M. R. (2020). Mental health and timing of gender-affirming care. *Pediatrics*, 146(4).

3 Hodax, J. K., Wagner, J., Sackett-Taylor, A. C., Rafferty, J., & Forcier, M. (2020). Medical options for care of gender diverse and transgender youth. *Journal of Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology*, 33(1), 3-9.

4 Hughes, L. D., Kidd, K. M., Gamarel, K. E., Operario, D., & Dowshen, N. (2021). "These laws will be devastating": Provider perspectives on legislation banning gender-affirming care for transgender adolescents. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 69(6), 976-982.

5 Price, M. A., Hollinsaid, N. L., McKetta, S., Mellen, E. J., & Rakhilin, M. (2023). Structural transphobia is associated with psychological distress and suicidality in a large national sample of transgender adults. *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*, 1-10.

6 Pacey, M. S., Sattler, P., Goffnett, J., & Jen, S. (2020). "It feels like home": Transgender youth in the Midwest and conceptualizations of community climate. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 48(6), 1863-1881.

In sum, this bill aims to reduce transgender youth's access to potentially life-saving healthcare that has been linked to improved mental health outcomes. Bills such as this serve to stigmatize transgender people, and such stigmatization has further been linked to adverse mental health effects. As a researcher and mental health service provider committed to the mental health of transgender youth, I urge you to vote against this bill.

TESTIMONY OF Daniel Murphy, MD  
IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 2792

Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services:

I am Daniel Murphy, MD, a retired Family Physician from Shawnee. I am writing to explain my opposition to House Bill 2792.

My medical practice included individuals of all ages dealing with gender dysphoria or gender incongruence (GD/GI). I conducted initial evaluations, provided advice and counseling, and managed their medical issues, excluding hormone therapy. However, I have studied treatment principles for GD/GI in children and adolescents.

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the Endocrine Society have issued clear guidelines for diagnosing and treating GD/GI at all ages. Here are a few relevant highlights:

- Gender Affirming Care requires involvement from specially trained mental health providers and GD/GI medical specialists.
- Patients must meet specific criteria for the diagnosis of GD/GI, including a 2-year history of transsexual identity. GD/GI is NOT classified as a mental disorder.
- Children should only receive supportive mental and social health care before puberty. Puberty normally begins in girls aged 8 to 13 and boys aged 9 to 14.
- Children should receive treatment to delay pubertal changes when they start puberty (as medically defined). Treatment is usually reversible.
- Hormone therapy should start when the child is capable of informed consent – generally about age 16.
- Gender affirming surgery is reserved for adults who have done well with hormone therapy.

Delaying puberty has been proven to reduce suicide risk and to improve self-image at all ages. Failure to treat at puberty complicates later treatment and causes irreversible body changes that can lead to worsening mental health status in adulthood.

Most of my GD/GI patients and their parents recognized the condition before the age of ten – many as young as five or six. Children tend to choose friends from their identified gender and choose clothing, toys, and activities usually associated with that gender.

Parents think long and hard before requesting evaluation for their children. Surely, any parental bill of rights should include the right to choose such fundamental treatment for their children.

Thank you for allowing me to explain my opposition to this bill.

Please oppose passage of House Bill 2792.



## WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF HB 2792

February 29, 2024

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

The Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (KAAP) represents more than 400 pediatricians and pediatric residents practicing in the state. KAAP has the fundamental goal that all children and adolescents in Kansas will grow safe and strong. It is with this goal in mind that oppose HB 2792.

The KAAP recommends that transgender and gender-diverse youth (TGD) have access to comprehensive, gender-affirming, and developmentally appropriate health care provided in a safe and inclusive clinical space. This healthcare is inclusive of family-based therapy and support that recognizes the importance of an individualized approach that best suits the needs of each patient.

Evidence-based standards on gender-affirming care have existed for decades. They require medical professionals to carefully evaluate each patient and make individualized decisions in the patient's best interest. The nation's leading health organizations support gender-affirming care -- including but not limited to the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Medical Association, American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists, Endocrine Society, and the Pediatric Endocrine Society. These organizations support the evidence-based, scientific provision of appropriate medical care for gender-diverse and transgender youth.

Realizing the complexity involved in medical decision-making, a one size fits all approach is detrimental to a physician's ability to make the proper medical decisions for each patient in conjunction with their families. Laws that specifically dictate or limit what physicians discuss during health care encounters undermine the patient-physician relationship. Also, legislative mandates regarding the practice of medicine do not allow for an infinite array of exceptions or cases in which the mandate may be unnecessary, inappropriate, or even harmful to an individual patient.

Any discrimination based on gender identity or expression, real or perceived, is damaging to the socioemotional health of children, families, and society. Even if we don't understand an individual's life journey, we owe it to our children to provide opportunities to feel like they belong.

This legislation would negatively impact and discriminate against both transgender youth in Kansas and thus we stand in opposition to HB 2792. We welcome any questions you might have and are happy to serve as your resource on all pediatric issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Dena Hubbard, MD, FAAP  
Chair, Public Policy Committee  
Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

To whom it may concern,

My name is Dr. Quinn Jackson and I am a family physician in Kansas City, Kansas. I am writing urging you to vote no on HB2792. While this bill may seem like a reasonable compromise on the issue of medical treatments for transgender youth, it remains too extreme for Kansas. Medical decisions should be left up to families and their physicians.

I am very specifically concerned about the legislature dictating what medical guidelines physicians will follow in providing medical care. Medical evidence changes with time. As we learn more through new research, professional organizations update these guidelines regularly. This bill proposes using the 2017 Endocrine Society guidelines as a standard. While these and the WPATH guidelines are what we currently use to provide this care, these specific documents and recommendations will change as we learn more through medical research. The Endocrine Society recently announced that they are going through the routine process of updating their guidelines on the care of transgender people. By enshrining the 2017 guidelines into law, this bill will force medical providers to use outdated medical evidence. Please do not force physicians in Kansas into providing outdated care. Patients and families deserve so much better than that.

Please vote no on HB2792.

Thank you,  
Dr. Quinn Jackson

HB 2792  
Ephren Taylor III  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
2/27/2024  
ephrenwtaylor@gmail.com  
WRITTEN ONLY  
OPPONENT

Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2791 with you today. My name is Ephren Taylor III and I am a voter in Johnson County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on HB 2791.

I am opposing this bill today because I hold the same values as you all do. The people of this committee and the people of Kansas value Medical and Parental freedom. I appreciate you doing what you think is best to protect those freedoms. I'm sure you can remember many times where Medical and Parental freedom was on the table, and you stood strong to protect it. I am confident that if any bill came your way that violated those fundamental principles of Medical and Parental Freedom that I can count on you to vote against it.

Medical freedom is also something that I hold very dearly to my heart. Just in general it's a blessing to be able to go to any doctor I want and get whatever care me and my doctor have determined necessary.

For example, not every therapist has been the right fit for me and not every method of therapy has been the right fit for me. But I still had the option of figuring that out with me and my therapist and my parents. If my mother and i were not allowed to make those decisions i can say for a fact that I would not be standing before you today. I can't imagine if the state came down on something like Cognitive Behavioral therapy. Thats Big government. that is medical authoritarianism not medical freedom. This is the type of world that they are trying to build. One where big government tells us what care we need. One where big government tells us what doctors we can see. Thats not a world that I want to live in, and I know that you don't want to live in that world either. Having this freedom is what it means to be Kansan, it's what it means to be an American.

I believe firmly that most of the people of this committee believe in principle of medical freedom as well as the rights of parents to help their child in the best way they know how. Its honorable that you fight so hard to protect those freedoms every day for the people of this state. And that's why I think this bill should concern all of us.

It's very simple.

If a bill violates the principal of medical freedom and/or parental freedom the committee should vote against it

Bill HB 2791 violates the principles of medical freedom and parental freedom.

Therefore, this committee should vote against Bill HB 2791

I thank you all for hearing my thoughts on this bill and for all of the amazing work that you're doing for Kansas. I know that you all are people that stick to your values even when the pressure is high. I trust that you will vote no of the passage of HB 2791.



**Written Opposition Testimony on HB 2792**  
**House Committee on Health and Human Services**  
**February 29, 2024**

Chairwoman Landwehr and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to HB 2792, which would ban gender-affirming surgeries for individuals under the age of 18 and mandate outdated standards of care in medical professionals' provision of gender-affirming care. The Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) is a professional organization that represents more than 800 public health practitioners, healthcare providers, researchers, advocates, and other professionals working together to build a healthier Kansas.

Gender-affirming care is safe, effective, medically necessary treatment for transgender youth that includes a continuum of social, psychological, behavioral, and medical interventions. Transgender youth experience disproportionately high rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation, and access to gender-affirming healthcare can be life-saving. Gender-affirming care is supported by all of the nation's leading medical associations, including but not limited to the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Psychiatric Association, and the Endocrine Society. The most common interventions – social transition, puberty blockers, and hormone replacement therapy – are completely safe and reversible. Pediatric gender-affirming care is intentionally designed to take a conservative approach. Consenting adults may pursue surgical gender-affirming care options that align their outward physical appearance with their gender identity.

Additionally, HB 2792 requires healthcare professionals providing gender-affirming care to follow clinical practice guidelines that are outdated, noncomprehensive, and under revision.<sup>1</sup> The proposed legislation penalizes Kansas physicians for using best-practice standards of care to treat their patients.

KPHA is dedicated to building healthy communities where all Kansans can thrive. We support physicians' ability to provide medical care that is in alignment with best-practice standards and in the best interest of their patients. Moreover, we support the right of all Kansans to access affirming, evidence-based, life-saving healthcare without government interference. As such, we strongly encourage the Committee to vote NO on HB 2792.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Attebery  
Policy Chair, Kansas Public Health Association  
[erin.attebery@live.com](mailto:erin.attebery@live.com)

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<sup>1</sup>Robertson, N. (2024, February 26). Endocrine Society reexamining clinical guidelines for gender-affirming care: Report. *The Hill*. <https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/4490475-endocrine-society-re-examining-clinical-guidelines-for-gender-affirming-care-report/>



HB 2792  
Erin Auvinen  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
2/27/2024  
efauvinen@gmail.com  
WRITTEN ONLY  
OPPONENT

Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2792 with you today. I, Erin Auvinen, PsyD, LMHP, am a clinical master's level psychologist in Wichita, Kansas. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on HB 2792. I have been providing mental health care for the LGBTQ+ community, primarily the transgender community for the last eight years. I graduated from an American Psychological Association (APA) accredited program – Alliant International University – and doctoral internship – Wichita Collaborative Psychology Internship Program (WCPIP). Since moving to Kansas in 2018, I have worked in community mental health providing individual, group and family therapy to underserved populations, specifically children, adolescents, young adults, and their families. I prioritize inclusivity and care for transgender clients. I became well known in my workplace for my knowledge and experience working with the transgender community. I lead multiple trainings on gender affirming mental health care to community mental health staff as well as doctoral level interns. I have also supervised WCPIP doctoral interns, who chose me as their supervisor because of my experience with the transgender community. In February 2023, I began working for M-Care Healthcare, an inclusive health care clinic in Wichita, KS where I primarily see transgender clients.

My gender affirming therapeutic approach is informed by APA standards for patient care and guidelines for working with transgender and gender nonconforming people. There is strong evidence that access to gender affirmative care has positive influences on patients, so much so that psychologists are encouraged to connect patients with gender affirming medical care as needed (American Psychological Association, 2015). I have worked with many children and adolescents in Kansas who identify as transgender, and I have seen first-hand the positive impact that access to gender affirming care has on my patients. I oppose HB 2792, because APA cited psychological research and my clinical experience have shown me how damaging not having access to gender affirming care can be on one's mental health. HB 2792 directly impacts the lives of my patients, and the risk of harm is much too great for me not to advocate on their behalf.

Psychologists have an essential role in children accessing gender affirming care in Kansas. Psychologists collaborate with medical professionals and work in interdisciplinary teams in order for their transgender patients to receive the best care. This is apparent in the APA's ethical standards and code of conduct, which highlights, "Respect for People's Rights and Dignity (Principle E), Avoiding Harm (3.04) and Unfair Discrimination (3.01)" (American Psychological Association, 2021). I work with my transgender patients' medical teams and write letters supporting their medical transition when appropriate. I diagnose gender dysphoria for patients who report and demonstrate persistent and insistent gender dysphoria symptoms.

HB 2792 violates an ethical standard that is accepted and practiced by medical and mental health providers: do no harm. In my opinion, the passing of HB 2792 would likely bring harm to transgender

children and adolescents. There is a substantial amount of scientific research and evidence that supports gender affirming care for transgender patients. It is well documented that, “transgender and gender diverse children and adolescents disproportionately experience elevated rates of depression, anxiety, self-harm, suicide, and other health risk behaviors” (American Psychological Association, 2020). When transgender people have access to gender affirming medical treatment, they report a variety of positive outcomes, such as, “improved psychological functioning, quality of life, treatment retention and engagement, and reductions in psychological distress, gender dysphoria, and maladaptive coping mechanisms” (American Psychological Association, 2021).

My job as a psychologist is to help patients feel hopeful about their futures and feel that their lives are worth living. HB 2792 is sending the message to transgender youth in Kansas that their mental health is not important, and their wellbeing doesn't matter. I have seen firsthand the negative impact that not having access to gender affirming medical care has on children and adolescents. I have sat across from patients week after week listening to them tell me that they don't know if they can make it to adulthood, because their gender dysphoria is so intense that hearing their own voice and seeing their reflection in the mirror overwhelms them with suicidal thoughts. Patients have described to me that their bodies feel like prisons that they cannot escape. For many I have worked with, they have determined that medically transitioning is their only hope for peace and happiness in their futures. I do everything I can to support and empower my patients as well as advocate on their behalf when their needs are being dismissed or ignored. HB 2792 does not protect Kansas youth. It undercuts their right to necessary healthcare that can be life saving for those struggling with gender dysphoria. The children and adolescents of Kansas deserve better from those who are tasked at protecting them and ensuring that they are seen and cared for.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of HB 2792. Thank you.

HB 2792  
Erin Woods  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
2/27/2023  
ewoods999@gmail.com  
WRITTEN ONLY  
OPPONENT

Dear Chairwoman Landwehr & members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my opposition to HB 2792. I am a mother of two children. Neither of my children are transgender, but as a mother I can recognize that this bill is not in the best interest of children or their parents.

Parents look to medical professionals

I have a number of friends with children who have faced scary situations with their health such as pediatric cancer, diabetes, anxiety, and depression. In every one of those cases, my friends have relied upon medical professionals to guide them through the best medical and mental health treatment for their children to ensure they could go on to live happy and fulfilling lives.

They trusted that their doctors were following the most up-to-date, evidence-based, well researched healthcare treatment guidelines for their child's diagnosis. Because that's what doctors do. I shudder to think how any of these children would be doing today if they were prevented from receiving the healthcare treatments supported and approved by our major medical associations.

This bill forces doctors to use outdated guidance in accordance with 2017 Clinical Practice Guidelines from the Endocrine Society. We should not be legislating the guidance medical professionals can use. This should be determined by medical associations.

Gender-affirming care is basic health care supported by medical organizations

Gender-affirming care is one of those healthcare treatments supported by every major medical association, including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry.

Gender-affirming care is life-saving care. A study published by the American Academy of Pediatrics revealed alarming levels of attempted suicide among transgender youth.

HB 2792 will lead to lawsuits at the expense of tax payers

Similar bills in other states have resulted in on-going court cases. The state of Arkansas has been involved in a costly lawsuit for almost three years now.

This bill focuses on the estimated 1% of Kansans kids who identify as transgender. Our tax dollars would be better served in a way that benefits all Kansas kids. Please do not lead our state down this costly path.

Talk to parents of transgender children

Before you consider passing this law, I ask that you take the time to meet with some parents of transgender children. There is no better way to gain an informed understanding of the impact this bill would have on their mental health and well-being.

Please recognize where your limitations as a legislator are as compared to trained medical professionals. Do not take gender-affirming care, that it is often quite literally life-saving care, away from children and the parents who love and care for them.

I appreciate your time and consideration in reading my testimony and I ask that you vote NO on HB 2792.

HB 2792  
Fred Bellemere  
Private Citizen  
2/25/2024  
fbellemere@gmail.com  
Writtten Only  
Opponent

Chariman Landwehr and members of the committe, thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts on HB2792. My name is Fred Bellemere, I am a voter in Leavenworth County. I am writing to encouragee the committee to vote no on HB 2792.

As the parent of a now transgender adult, I can tell you the importance of having doctors to talk with about treatment options. We were told very early on that surgery was not an option for a minor. We had multiple discussions about hormone treatments, what those treatments would do (including the possibility of sterility). Then my wife and I, our daughter and our doctors made decisions based on what we felt was best treatment option. These decisions are medical and need to be made just as described above between parents, children and their doctors. Allowing legislators to limit or restrict a parents aces to medical care is simply not acceptable. There are so many real problems in this world that desperately need to be adressed. This is simply not one of them. Please let parents and doctors do their jobs.

Thank you all for your time, and I encourage you all to vote no on HB 2792. Thank you.

HB 2792  
Gerald Briscoe  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
2/27/2024  
gjb7917@nyu.edu  
WRITTEN ONLY  
OPPONENT

Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for allowing time to share my thoughts on HB 2792. My name is Gerald Briscoe and I am a voter from Gardner, Kansas. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on HB 2792.

As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, it hurts to see the legislature used to consistently raise bills that attack the most vulnerable of the most vulnerable within Kansas. Not only transgender people, but transgender children who have a hard enough time as it is trying to survive our society that consists of transphobic community members who either want them gone or even worse, dead. Growing up in our state, it was struggle to see a future where I could be myself while also staying at home. HB 2792 is the definition of telling certain Kansans that, while at home, they are not allowed to be themselves and seek the right to healthcare that they deserve. Legislation like this will not only inhibit Kansans' freedom to make their own private and life saving medical decisions, but further legitimize the transphobia that's already dividing our communities.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no on the passage of HB 2792. Thank you.

HB 2792  
Hayley Spellman  
Private Citizen  
2/27/2024  
hayleyspellman@hotmail.com  
Written Only  
Opponent

Thank you to Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee for allowing me to share my thoughts on HB 2792 with you today. My name is Hayley Spellman, and I am a voter in Johnson County. I write today to encourage the committee to vote no on HB 2792.

As an educator, I have seen firsthand the impact gender-affirming care and treatment have on our trans youth. I have taught countless students who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community, including several who identify as transgender. It takes courage to stand up for what you believe in, and it takes courage to present yourself and match how you truly feel inside.

This issue is literally a matter of life or death, as trans individuals, especially trans women, are statistically more likely to experience LGBTQ+-targeted violence and are at a higher risk of suicide and self harm. Those students' lives matter, as do all members of the queer community.

Gender-affirming care is life-saving care, and these decisions should belong to patients, their families, and doctors. Politicians have no right blocking essential and evidence-based healthcare for transgender individuals. Transgender youth have every right to receive the same opportunities as their peers. HB 2792 unfairly singles out these individuals and blocks them from essential healthcare.

The students that I've had in my classroom deserve the entire world, and I would do everything in my power to ensure these kids are protected and allowed to thrive. This especially includes my transgender students, as they felt safe enough in my classroom to be courageous and share their story with me. Very few trans youth feel safe enough to share such personal information with their peers, teachers, and families. They deserve to feel protected and safe.

The Kansas Legislature has a responsibility of protecting our youth, especially those at risk for discrimination and violence. Trans youth have every right to be protected, too.

Thank you again for allowing me to share my thoughts on this bill, and thank you for listening to the voices of our educators and students. I strongly encourage you to vote no on the passage of HB 2792. Thank you.

HB 2792  
Holly Terrill  
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2/26/2024  
holly.terrill@gmail.com  
WRITTEN ONLY  
OPPONENT

Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2792 with you today. My name is Holly Terrill and I am a voter in Sedgwick County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2792.

As a parent of a transgender child, I am deeply concerned about the potential consequences of this bill, which would severely restrict access to life-saving gender-affirming healthcare and undermine the autonomy of patients, families, and healthcare providers.

HB 2792 mandates outdated healthcare standards and bans gender-affirming surgery for minors, even with parental consent. By restricting healthcare providers to follow guidelines that are not the most recent nor the most comprehensive, this bill jeopardizes the health and well-being of transgender youth and undermines the expertise of medical professionals. Furthermore, it threatens physicians with licensure implications for providing necessary surgical care to transgender minors.

It is crucial to recognize that gender-affirming care is not only evidence-based and medically necessary but also life-saving. Every major medical association advocates against bills like HB 2792 because they understand the critical importance of affirming transgender individuals' identities and providing them with appropriate healthcare services. This bill not only interferes with private medical decisions but also discriminates against transgender Kansans and raises serious constitutional concerns regarding free speech rights.

I implore you to stand on the right side of history and oppose HB 2792. Transgender youth deserve our support, affirmation, and access to the healthcare they need to thrive. Please prioritize the well-being and rights of all Kansans by rejecting these harmful and discriminatory bills.

Thank you for considering my perspective, and I urge you to take action to protect transgender children in our state. I encourage you all to vote NO for the passage of HB 2792. Thank you.



Dear Chair Landwehr and Members of the Kansas House Health and Human Services Committee:

You may or may not recognize me from around the statehouse. I am someone who has tried to stay as active and as civically engaged as possible in Kansas, because I am someone who does not feel as though my government is treating people like myself fairly.

I would hope that this comes as a shock to any lawmaker reading this testimony, however, I am somewhat unsure that it will. I urge anyone who reads this who is also surprised that there are people like myself who live in our great state who feel disenfranchised by the governing body I am addressing right now to reach out to me and start an open and honest dialogue.

Unfortunately, I personally feel that the majority of lawmakers in the Kansas Legislature seemingly do not have the welfare of every Kansas resident in mind, rather, they are sitting in their positions for their own political gain.

I should hope that it occurs to many of you that Kansans do not WANT to spend their time writing opposition testimony, let alone care about the actions this Legislature is taking. I know many Kansans who WANT to spend their free time focusing on passions, hobbies, and doing things that make life worth living.

Life, however, cannot be worth living if we consistently must, time and again, worry about actions taken by those who write the rules that dictate how our society operates. In a perfect world, a Kansas government of the people, by the people, and most importantly, FOR the people, will not intervene in Kansans' lives when they are attempting to receive life-saving healthcare such as abortion, gender-affirming care, or any other practice deemed acceptable by scientists and experts in their field.

I urge any one of you to step outside of your bubble, and attempt to live one day in the life of a transgender Kansan. It is clear to me from the actions taken by this body, as someone who identifies as trans, that despite claiming to understand healthcare and having concerns surrounding gender-affirming care, many lawmakers do NOT have a clue what it means to be trans.

Where then, is this type of policy born from? The answer is fear. Fear of a changing world, fear of losing power, and most importantly, fear of the happiness of others. For that, I am truly sorry for anyone in our world who lacks that joyful experience. Seeing those around me thrive is one of the most wonderful things that I could ever experience.

I know that you will all receive a large amount of testimony that will explain the PROVEN science and safety behind gender-affirming healthcare, which is why I won't give you any more reason than this to vote NO on HB 2792: please have a heart, and think of the children whose mental health will be detrimentally affected if these bills become law.

If you can't, then I hope you will remember that yours is an elected position, and there are those who would like to see you out of your position, even if you have enjoyed the comfortability of it for a great deal of time. As for me, however, I will support any lawmaker who decides to be a proud ally of the LGBTQ+ community, not only in what they say, but also in the actions they take.

It's difficult to live a comfortable life if you are consistently making decisions that harm other people. Please vote NO on HB 2792- not just for the LGBTQ+ community in Kansas, but for your own peace of mind.

Thank you,

Jae Moyer  
*(They/Them/Theirs)*

HB 2792  
Jenna Bellemere  
Private Citizen  
2/26/2024  
jbellemere314@gmail.com  
Written Only  
Opponent

Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jenna Bellemere, and I am a voter in Leavenworth County. I write today to encourage this body to vote no on HB 2792.

The past three years have seen an unprecedented expansion of the attack on transgender youth, both in our state and nationwide. Legislation like HB 2792 exemplifies the cruelty and injustice of these attacks: it targets children, the most vulnerable among us, threatening their ability to access lifesaving medical care. It is unjustifiable and its passage should be unconscionable to anyone with even the slightest empathy for trans youth.

Anyone familiar with the scientific literature understands that this care is necessary and lifesaving for many people. This is not in dispute. The healthcare this bill would make inaccessible saved my life, and the life of many of my friends. I find it impossible to believe that the supporters of HB 2792 have never encountered similar stories to mine, and yet they persist in promoting junk science in the hopes of stripping us of our most basic human rights.

No one is fooled by the attempt to ban "gender transition surgeries" (a term that means nothing and is not used by any reputable medical organization). This bill is an attack on healthcare for trans youth, which will inevitably serve as a springboard to banning every other element of gender-affirming care that stands to make trans lives even the tiniest bit more livable.

Unfortunately, it is becoming increasingly clear that some of the most powerful people in our state do not understand (or do not care to understand) the above. The same political machine responsible for the most disastrous and unpopular tax "experiment" in the history of the state has now turned their gaze on a new enemy: children just trying to go to the doctor. Once again, regular people are left to pick up the pieces in the wake of their elected leaders' failure to govern.

HB 2792 and the political movement behind it are representative of everything broken in our political system. Do not allow yourself to be made into a tool for extremists to inflict their hate on innocent people.

Once again, I encourage you all to vote no on HB 2792.

HB 2792  
Jennifer Ancell  
Private Citizen  
2/27/2024  
ancelljen@gmail.com  
WRITTEN ONLY  
OPPONENT

Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee,  
Thank you for allowing me to share my perspective on HB 2792. My name is Jennifer Ancell and I am a voter in Johnson County asking you to vote no on this bill.

During my time as an educator, I have watched many young adults struggle with gender dysphoria. It is a complex issue for these students, their families and medical care professionals. Without proper assessment and treatment, a disproportionate number of these students face depression and anxiety. For this reason, gender affirming care is life saving care.

My concern with this legislation is that it overrides the decisions of parents and medical professionals.

This is an individual and private matter that does not require political consideration. Medical professionals have the benefit of evidence based protocols in place that help these students. My fear is that this legislation will have far reaching effects and actually harm the lives of young people. Please defer to parents, trained therapists and health care providers to do what is best for these young people. I ask that you not overlook the perspective and expertise those who know these individuals best. Allow them to get the care they need without political intervention.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak to support our young people who struggle with gender dysphoria. Make sure they get the care they need without fear of repercussions from broadly reaching legislation like this. Please vote NO on the passage of HB 2792. Thank you.

HB 2792  
Jessica Porter  
Private Citizen  
5/8/1987  
jp4410@me.com  
Written Only  
Opponent

Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee, thank you for giving me time to ask you to vote "NO" on HB 2792.

I strongly oppose this bill because it puts children's lives in the hands of the government instead of in their parent's hands. It seems contradictory to pass bills such as the Parents' Bill of Rights, then turn around and try to pass a Bill that tells parents they do not know what is best for their child.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote "NO" on the passage of HB 2792. Thank you."

Jonathan Smith

Private Citizen

02/26/2024

HB 2792 - Prohibiting gender transition surgery on minors, authorizing professional discipline against a physician who performs such surgeries and adopting a standard of care for gender transition

Written-Only Opposition testimony

Hearing Date: February 29th, 2024 1:30pm

Committee on Health and Human Services

Greetings Chair Landwehr and esteemed committee persons. My name is Jonathan Smith and I will be urging you to vote **NO** on HB 2792. This bill is government overreach; it is a wild over-step and widespread implementation of a fringe and harmful set of personal beliefs on the greater public of the state of Kansas. It is a backslide of personal freedoms under the false guise of protecting children and will be nothing but used against you as fodder during election season.

There is no reasonable solution I can ever see the government stepping between a doctor with their hippocratic oath, and a patient in need of care. In every situation, the doctor will either treat the patient ethically, or refer the patient to a different doctor for a second opinion. The government has no place in the healthcare industry, as the public has already publicly stated in August of 2022.

This ideology, that believes that transgender individuals aren't allowed, by force of government, to seek their own personal sense of care, in the pursuit of their own personal happiness, as is dictated by **The Declaration of Independence**, is so backward from everything our ancestors fought against during the revolutionary war. I can't even imagine what they would think, looking upon those of us choosing to restrict the fundamental rights of every red-blooded Kansan that chooses to live by their own way of life.

This bill will cause far more deaths, by way of suicide, than doing literally nothing ever would. There is a **strong** correlation between an increase in anti-transgender legislation and increased suicide rates and hate crimes against transgender individuals.

(<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/nov/22/transgender-deaths-remembrance-report>)

This is not a winning issue, this is not something Kansans care about. There are so many more important issues than whatever the heck this is. Please care about more important things like strengthening background checks and regulations for firearm purchases, losing the food tax, protecting our climate, water, and land, fully funding our public schools, or even improving our elections with ranked-choice voting. There are so many better issues you could be working on instead of wasting your time on this kind of stuff. This will almost certainly be used against you in an election if you vote favorably for this terrible legislation.

In closing, kill this bill, and stop wasting time trying to control Kansans' freedoms. **Do not pass** HB 2792.

Thank you for your time,

Jonathan Smith

HB 2792  
Kaden Nelson  
Loud Light Leadership Committy  
2/27/2024  
Kaedaedae@gmail.com  
Written Only  
Opponent

I, Kaden Nelson. am grateful to be given the oppurtunity to have my voice and my opinion heard by the commity concerning HB 2791. I am a voter in Johnson county and am writing today to strongly encourage the committe to vote no.

Gender affirming care is an extremely complicated and multifaceted issue and I believe that doctors should have the utmost freedom and flexibillity when dealing with it. The drugs and methods used, such as cosmetic surgery and hormone blockers, are not exclusive to gender affirming care and therefore it can only be described as discriminatory for creating a bill that specifically prevents gender affirming care while not changing the regulations that doctors use to research or perform medicince. My little brother was recomended hormone blockers by a doctor not because he is trans, but because he started to experience puberty before the age of 8. If these drugs are truly the horror that so many advocates for these bills want you to believe they are, it is still necesarry to solve the problem from the root instead of targeteting and irradicating our trans youth.

I am once again so grateful to have had my voice heard by the council, and I hope I have made a compelling argument to vote against the bill.

February 27, 2024

HB2792 Opponent Written Only Testimony

Chairwoman Landwehr and members of the committee,

This bill does not protect Kansas children from the atrocities of gender transitions. In my mind, that is reason enough to end the progression of this bill. I am strongly opposed to this bill and encourage the members of the committee to let this bill die in committee.

Kari Sue

Vosburgh

Sedgwick County Precinct Committeewoman

We The People KS



HB 2792  
Kate Healy  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
2/27/2024  
katelgracehealy@gmail.com  
WRITTEN ONLY  
OPPONENT

Hello to Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee. Thank you sincerely for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2792 with you today. My name is Kate Healy and I am a voter in Sedgwick County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on HB 2792.

One of my best friends is transgender, and we depended on each other during some of the most confusing and rocky periods of our lives. She often expressed to me how much she wished she could have received gender affirming care when she was in high school, and how much it hurt to understand yourself, but refuse oxygen to who you really are. All the different ways she needed to silence herself created debilitating patterns, because she was told to sublimate her sense of self, over and over again. In order to allow others to view her in a certain way, she needed to shut up and pretend. It's terribly unhealthy to live in a lie for too long, gender affirming care is life saving care.

This legislation would not only restrict medically safe and proven to be beneficial procedures for young trans people, but it would threaten physicians and twist fear into their daily lives. I believe that legislation like this actually takes power away from the credibility of government. It has the effect of making lawmakers seem mostly eager to ban and ready to restrict, instead of playing a supportive and strengthening role in our lives.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of HB 2792. Thank you.

Subject: Testimony for HB 2792 (Katie McDonald, opposed, written)

Dear Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 2792, which seeks to prohibit gender transition surgeries on minors and mandate provider care guidelines. These measures would have detrimental effects on transgender youth in Kansas.

It is crucial to understand that gender-affirming care, including surgeries, is life-saving care. Restrictions on this care are opposed by medical bodies and organizations across the country, who consistently warn that such policies threaten the lives of transgender young people. Politicians should not interfere in the doctor-patient relationship or dictate how doctors should provide care, especially when it goes against best practice standards of care for their medical field.

Medical care for gender dysphoria is evidence-based, medically necessary, and safe. Every major medical association advocates against bills like HB 2792 because they restrict patients, families, and their doctors from making their own private medical decisions. Transgender youth deserve the same chance to thrive as their peers, and this bill singles them out for unequal treatment, denying them access to the same care available to cisgender and intersex youth.

I urge you to oppose HB 2792 and protect the rights and well-being of transgender youth in Kansas.

Sincerely,  
Katie McDonald

Dear Legislator,

My name is Keighley Miller, and I am writing in partnership with the Kansas Interfaith Action. KIFA is a statewide, multifaith issue advocacy organization that partners with several Christian denominations, as well as Jewish and Muslim Kansans.

I believe we should protect the rights of the LGBTQ+ community here in Kansas. My younger brother and I grew up in a town where we had no LGBTQ+ community. It was a place where words like "gay" and "queer" were used as insults. We both knew we were different, but we didn't really know why. All we knew was we didn't fit in with our peers. Eventually, we both ended up in a community with a great deal of LGBTQ+ support. We were able to figure out who we were, and we came to accept ourselves for what we'd always been made to feel bad about: our difference from the people we grew up around.

My brother came to accept himself as a transman, and I met my wife after I was able to live my truth as a bisexual woman. Without the support of our LGBTQ+ peers, we would have never figured out why we felt out of place in our home town. We learned that being gay or queer were not bad things or things worthy of insults. They are part of who we are, just as much as the color of our skin or the size of our feet are. These qualities are immutable parts of our identities, not something we should have to hide. Can you imagine having to dye your hair or change the color of your eyes just to make other people accept you? LGBTQ+ people deserve to be themselves, especially LGBTQ+ youth.

Perhaps if my brother and I had felt comfortable exploring our identities as children, we would have accepted ourselves sooner instead of feeling bad or wrong for being different. Kids already have a hard time coming to terms with who they are - there should not be legal barriers holding them back from self-discovery. It is cruel and unusual for the state to dictate to kids what they can and cannot be. It is oppression of identity. It will negatively impact the quality of life of transgender and non-binary youth. They should not have to feel wrong or bad, like my brother and I did.

My church, Plymouth Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, supports the LGBTQ+ community because they are God's beloved children. Our church has issued the following statement - "Plymouth Congregational Church affirms that members of the transgender, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming community share with all others the worth associated with being unique individuals created by God. Considering the struggles they currently face, we especially welcome and affirm the transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming youth community. This congregation joyfully and unequivocally welcomes the transgender, non-binary, and gender nonconforming community to share in the life, leadership, and blessings of participation in our community of faith. We also commit ourselves to the work of creating not only a world in which transgender, non-binary, and gender nonconforming people are safe, but also a world in which they thrive."

Sincerely,

Keighley Miller

HB 2792  
Kellie Bubeck  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
2/27/2024  
kellie.bubeck@gmail.com  
WRITTEN ONLY  
OPPONENT

Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee, I am a voter in Johnson County, and strongly encourage the committee to vote no on HB 2792 as it is harmful to the transgender community and an unnecessary interference into families' private matters.

Please oppose anti-transgender legislation including HB 2792. Kansans deserve the freedom to make their own medical decisions without interference from politicians.

Gender affirming care is healthcare. A study published by the American Academy of Pediatrics revealed alarming levels of attempted suicide among transgender youth.

Gender affirming care is evidence-based, medically necessary, and safe, which is why major medical associations support gender-affirming care and advocate against bills like this.

Rather than protecting kids, these laws are preventing parents and young people from making informed medical decisions, and doctors and health care providers from providing best-practice care to their patients.

Again, please vote no on HB 2792.



**Opponent Written Testimony on House Bill 2792**  
House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Kerry Gooch – Kansas Black Leadership Council  
February 29, 2024

Chair and Members of the Committee,

**It is our firm position as the Kansas Black Leadership Council to stand in opposition to House Bill 2792 because of its several concerns for Black Kansans, particularly members of the transgender community.**

**As a community, we cannot deny the contributions the transgender community has made in the fight for freedom and equality.** Black Transgender men and women are responsible for some of our greatest wins in civil rights history. From Marsha P Johnson and her contributions to the LGBTQ+ Rights movement to the contributions of queer black leaders such as Audré Lorde, Bayard Rustin, and Miss Major Griffin Gracey made in the civil rights spaces. The Black or LGBTQ+ community would not be where it is today without the contributions of our LGBTQ+ members, who, in many regards, have faced discrimination in many forms outside of their racial identity. This is why we, as the black community, will not stand for any attacks on the LGBTQ+ members of our community.

**HB 2792 is it aims to combat an issue that does not exist when we have many pressing issues that do.** In the state of Kansas, there are a plethora of issues our legislature could dedicate itself to that could benefit Black Kansans. From investing in our public schools to decriminalizing marijuana, the legislature could truly center the needs of black communities within the state. The black community expects our taxpayer dollars to go towards making our state a more inclusive and liveable environment, not attacking and marginalizing communities with the very state-sanctioned violence used to keep black people from achieving access, equality, and freedom. As noted for the past several years by medical experts who have come before the legislature, many specialists in gender-affirming care, minors are not receiving gender transition surgeries. The lack of weight the legislature places on trained medical experts in the area of expertise is appalling and results in wildly unpopular bills like HB2792 that aim to solve an issue that doesnt exist on taxpayer dollars. As a community, we urge you to stop these attacks on the LGBTQ+ communities within our state and actually address the issues we need urgent action on.

**We know, based on the history of state-sanctioned violent policies targeting LGTBQ+ populations, that the black transgender populations face the worst impact.** In their 2020 report on Fatal Violence against Transgender and Nonbinary individuals within the United States, the Human Rights Campaign found that in the violent record number of fatal incidents against transgender and gender non-conforming people, Black Trans women disproportionately made up 66% of the people who were killed. During the HIV/AIDS Epidemic, Black LGBTQ+ people, particularly transgender women, died at disproportionately higher rates. In both of these instances and many more, we can see that due to the role of intersectionality people who are both Black and Transgender often face the worst outcomes when it comes to anti-lgbtq+ legislation. Whether it is attitudes, the policies help to foster, or care and practices they ban, many of these policies often result in the disproportionate loss of life for our transgender members of the black community.



**Opponent Written Testimony on House Bill 2792**  
House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Kerry Gooch – Kansas Black Leadership Council  
February 29, 2024

**Lastly, due to the years of harm, black communities have faced in regard to medical care. We deserve the highest standards of care and practices.** From the Tuskegee experiments in the 30s to the infant mortality rates black women face today, the medical field and policies that govern it have failed the black community. This failure has oftentimes resulted in the preventable deaths of thousands of Black people. This bill asks the legislature to implement the 2017 standards of care from the Endocrine Society into statute. These dated standards, which are nearly a decade old, should not be the level of care we operate under at a statewide level when there are more comprehensive and acceptable standards of care that exist. The legislature is not a body of doctors with a good grasp of medical knowledge, especially as it relates to LGBTQ+ populations. The legislature oftentimes on record has gone against the expert testimony of reputable medical organizations, experts, physicians, and practitioners year after year, especially in regard to gender-affirming care. We must better listen to our medical professionals and ensure the best health policies for all Kansans.

**In Conclusion – HB 2792 is a nonsensical bill that aims to solve an issue that does not exist, further perpetuating violent narratives that put black LGBTQ+ Kansans at risk.** It is your job as a legislator to create a sound policy that benefits all members of your communities. Spending taxpayer dollars to attack our communities around issues that don't exist is a misuse of power and strays from the reasons your constituents elected you. This is why KBLC urges you to vote in opposition to HB 2792.

February 18, 2024

Dear Health and Human Services Committee,

I am writing to express my profound concern and opposition to HB2792, collectively known as the "Forbidding Abuse Child Transitions Act" and the legislation prohibiting gender transition surgeries on minors, respectively. As a mental health provider working within the school system, I am deeply troubled by the potential harm and disruption these bills could inflict on schools and the students they serve, particularly those who are transgender or gender non-conforming.

HB2792's prohibition of gender transition surgeries on minors and its authorization of professional discipline against physicians who perform such surgeries undermine the ability of transgender students to access comprehensive healthcare services. By adopting a narrow standard of care for gender transition care services, this legislation fails to account for the individualized needs and experiences of transgender youth and disregards the expertise of healthcare professionals in providing affirming and supportive care.

The social transition process, which may include changes in name, pronouns, and gender presentation, is a critical aspect of affirming the gender identity of transgender students and promoting their mental health and well-being. Schools play a pivotal role in creating inclusive and supportive environments where all students feel valued, respected, and safe to express their authentic selves. HB2791 and HB2792 not only undermine the ability of schools to support the social transition of students but also perpetuate stigma, discrimination, and marginalization against transgender and gender non-conforming youth.



As a mental health provider committed to the well-being of students, I urge you to oppose HB2792 and to instead prioritize policies and practices that affirm the identities and experiences of transgender youth in schools. It is imperative that we uphold the principles of dignity, equity, and inclusion and work collaboratively to create environments where all students can thrive.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this critical issue. I remain hopeful that you will stand against legislation that undermines the rights and well-being of transgender students and advocate for policies that promote inclusivity, respect, and affirmation in our schools.

Sincerely,

Kiley S. Lockett, LMSW

District Mental Health Coordinator

Lawrence Public Schools

HB 2792  
Kim Bellemere  
Private Citizen  
2/26/2024  
kbellemere@gmail.com  
Written Only  
Opponent

Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee. My name is Kim Bellemere and I live in Leavenworth County. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB 2792. As the mother of a transgender woman and a former health educator, I'm writing to encourage you to vote no on this dangerous bill.

As others are likely to testify, EVERY major medical association, including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, supports gender-affirming care for transgender youth and opposes bills like HB 2792. In fact, denying gender-affirming care to a transgender young person often has detrimental, even life-threatening consequences.

Likewise, legal experts can tell you that should this bill become law, our state will face significant financial and legal consequences. Fighting the resulting lawsuits will take time away from other more important matters and will cost Kansas taxpayers a tremendous amount of money. That's hardly the best way to steward our state's financial resources.

If those two reasons aren't enough to stop pursuing the passage of this dangerous bill, I'll give you a third, more personal one. When our daughter told us she was transgender, my husband and I were shocked. We didn't know where to go for help or how to support her. We worried about her safety, we didn't know what her future would be like, and we were scared that the world wouldn't treat her fairly.

Despite our fears, it was very clear that she knew exactly who she was and what she wanted. It became our job to trust and support her. Luckily, we found the medical clinicians and therapists who could answer our questions. Those experts followed evidence-based medical protocols, protocols that are more recent and well-researched than those outlined in this bill, and they worked with our daughter and us to develop a plan. In doing so, they eased our fears and they enabled her to see a future for herself. Today she is vibrant, successful, and courageous young woman and we couldn't possibly be more proud of her.

You'll note that we turned to trained medical professionals for guidance, not our state legislators. In fact, worrying about what the government and our state's officials think about a person's private medical treatment should never be a part of any treatment decisions. Yet, here we are. Again facing government overreach and fighting back legislation based on false assumptions and biases that harm children and families.

Transitioning is hard and it can be scary. It shouldn't be made harder and more frightening by a government that is supposed to support its people, rather than trying to erase them from public life.

Thank you again for this opportunity to offer testimony. I urge you to support transgender Kansans and vote no on HB 2792.

HB 2792  
Kyle Hamrick  
Private Citizen  
2/27/2024  
kylasaurus.rex@gmail.com  
Written Only  
Opponent

"Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee, thank you for hearing my thoughts on HB 2792 today. My name is Kyle Hamrick and I am a voter in Wyandotte County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2792"

These choices should be made on a case-by-case basis by the patient, their parents or guardians (when desired by the patient), and their doctor. Passage of this bill will literally endanger the lives of Kansas citizens.

It is attempting to legislate what is clearly religious-based morality on a statewide basis, without a basis in science or proper understanding of the repercussions it will have on this already vulnerable population.

Let's show the nation Kansas values its children - of all kinds.

Again, thank you all for hearing my and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of HB 2792.

HB 2792  
LEE ALEXANDER MICHOTA  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
2/27/2024  
leemichota@gmail.com  
WRITTEN ONLY  
OPPONENT

"Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2792 with you today. My name is Lee Alexander Michota (he/him) and I am a voter in Sedgwick County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on HB 2792"

If we are to embrace the idea of gender as a medical health issue, then it must remain in the hands of the individual and medical professionals without the influence of legislation, full stop. Patients, families, and their doctors have the right to make their own private medical decisions, not legislation. This bill is a dangerous effort to control our bodies and threaten the wellbeing of our children, the safety of our communities, and the ability of every family to determine what's best for their child.

Furthermore, gender-affirming care is life saving care. I was thirty years old before I received the gender-affirming care I needed to survive and thrive. Up until then, I had attempted suicide three times and had been hospitalized with little hope of seeing my twenty-sixth birthday. Sitting here at thirty-seven years old, post surgery, properly balanced, with a support system and community that embraces gender in all its euphoria, those days feel like lifetimes behind me. But this is not a one-off story. It is reflected in so many of us trans-folks (of the ones who make it to adulthood) and we see the vulnerability in our youth being threatened constantly. A bill like this does just that.

Medical care for gender dysphoria is evidence-based, medically necessary, and safe. Gender-affirming care is individualized to meet the needs of each patient, managed through a careful and evidence-based model of assessment and informed consent—which is already required by law. The World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) already aligns their gender affirming care with the most current science based research and is used as the necessary gateway by countless practices around the country. Therapy requirements, social transition stipulations and hormone regulation are just a handful of examples of the requirements needed for a transgender individual to undergo gender-affirming surgery in the state of Kansas (all of which myself and my healthcare team became very familiar with).

Do we really need more red tape for our healthcare professionals to provide the life-saving care trans kids need to survive? And furthermore, why would we then continue to provide such services to intersex children? Do trans children not deserve the same chance to thrive as their peers? To support this bill would be to enforce following outdated gender-affirming care guidelines (via Endocrine Society circa 2017) that may cause disruption or barriers to the health care necessary for a trans child to exist as their best self, while also simultaneously endangering the ethical practices of many licensed physicians providing safe, legal and adequate care.

"Once again, I thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of HB 2792. Thank you."

February 27, 2024

## Testimony to the House Health and Human Services Committee

NAME: **Leslie D. Mark**

TITLE: **Kansas Citizen / Voter**

EMAIL ADDRESS: **ldmark61@gmail.com**

BILL NUMBER: **HB2792, Prohibiting gender transition surgery on minors, authorizing professional discipline against a physician who performs such surgeries and adopting a standard of care for gender transition care services.**

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: **Opponent**

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: **Written Only**

Dear Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to share a personal perspective, which is that **fear-based, hateful, and sweeping legislation written by politicians without empathy does not represent our Kansas common sense approach to sensitive matters at all well.**

HB 2792 **bans gender affirming surgery for minors, even with parental consent** which means that fully licensed physicians could not provide “gender transition surgery” to trans people under 18 and further threatens physicians licensed by the Board of Health and Healing Arts with inability to maintain that licensure because they provide such surgical care.

For me the most egregious elements of HB 2792 also **mandate unacceptable healthcare standards.** What that actually means is that trusted professionals like therapists, nurses, physicians, and even the specialist surgeons would have to provide “transgender care services” in accordance with **outdated guidelines** from the 2017 Clinical Practice issued by the Endocrine Society. These are NOT the most comprehensive standards of care. Why would the KS Leg force Kansas providers to be restricted by no-longer-accepted guidelines when that could further cause harm, disruption deny access altogether to quality healthcare for any Kansan?

This bill, like HB 2791, is truly anti-people, anti-Kansas, anti-American legislation. Vote NO on HB 2792.



Leslie D. Mark

*Mission Hills, HD 25 / Sen 7*

HB 2792  
Lillian Fleming  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
2/26/2024  
fleming.lillian@gmail.com  
WRITTEN ONLY  
OPPONENT

Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee, thank you for taking the time to review my thoughts on HB 2792 with you today. My name is Lillian Fleming and I am a voter in Johnson County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on HB 2792.

The proposed bill dangerously blurs the line between politics and medicine, undermining the ability of healthcare providers to adhere to the latest clinical standards.

Kansans have very vocally and legally stated that they do not want the Kansas legislature to interfere in the doctor-patient relationship. I ask that the committee take a moment to consider the public perception, reputation and economic status of other states that have injected politics into the very private business of their constituency. When I consider states that have the ability to attract top talent, diverse business and a good reputation, those states that disregard evidence-based medicine are not on that list. Alabama's religiously-based banning of IVF is a most recent and unfortunate example of this misguided approach. There are far-reaching consequences to state legislatures denying science and attempting to practice their own brand of medicine. It is incumbent upon us to prioritize the principles of evidence-based medicine and uphold the sanctity of the doctor-patient relationship for the betterment of our state and its residents.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of HB 2792. Thank you.



**Opponent Testimony to HB 2792**  
**Committee on Health and Human Services**

**By Linda Highland**

**February 28, 2024**

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony. I am an opponent to HB 2792 because it does not go far enough to protect minors who have been led to believe their lives would be better as a different gender. Evidence points to the schools as the place where gender confusion begins. In fact, materials used in the schools directly ask students if they are gender confused. Students are also often asked questions about their suicidality.

Attached are documents proving this point. The hour-long Kansas Communities That Care (KCTC) survey, given to 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders directly asks our youth to differentiate between their “gender assigned at birth, even if you are not that gender today.”

Then it goes on to ask them, “What is your current gender identity, even if it is different than the gender you were assigned at birth?” Options are: “Male, Female, I do not identify as either male or female, or I’m not sure yet.”

The schools also promote suicide. This example comes from the KCTC survey. It asks students:

“Have you ever seriously thought about killing yourself?”

“Have you ever made a plan about how you would kill yourself?”

“Have you ever tried to kill yourself?”

This is just one example of many other materials, like the CDC survey, that are just as offensive. The social emotional learning curriculum, with its heavy emphasis upon students’ shortcomings, is a big contributing factor to the mental health problems of our youth today. Whatever behaviors our educational systems are normalizing, are the behaviors we will see in our youths’ lives.



## Depression Suicide Optional Module

During the PAST 12 MONTHS, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities?

- No
- Yes

Have you ever seriously thought about killing yourself?

- No/Never
- Yes, in the past 30 days
- Yes, in the past 12 months
- Yes, over one year ago

Have you ever made a plan about how you would kill yourself?

- No/Never
- Yes, in the past 30 days
- Yes, in the past 12 months
- Yes, over one year ago

Have you ever tried to kill yourself?

- No/Never
- Yes, in the past 30 days
- Yes, in the past 12 months
- Yes, over one year ago



## Demographics for Gender Identity Optional Module

What gender were you assigned at birth, even if you are not that gender today (that is, what is the gender on your birth certificate)?

- Male
- Female

What is your current gender identity, even if it is different than the gender you were assigned at birth?

- Male
- Female
- I do not identify as either male or female
- I'm not sure yet

This Poster Promoting Girls to Become Transgender is No Longer Posted



currently hanging up  
at Topeka West High  
School in Topeka  
Kansas

HB 2972  
Lisa Marin  
Private citizen  
2/27/2024  
Lisa.marin@mac.com  
Written only  
Opponent

Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2792 with you today. My name is Lisa Marin and I am a voter in Johnson County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on HB 2792"

As a parent of a transgender child, it is imperative for children diagnosed with gender dysphoria to receive medically appropriate care. Lack of access to medically appropriate care, results in suicide, suicidal ideation, and depression. The government should not be involved in medical decisions between patients, parents, and the physicians.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of HB 2792. Thank you."

HB 2792  
Liz Hamor  
Private Citizen  
2/27/2024  
liz.hamor@centerofdaring.com  
WRITTEN ONLY  
OPPONENT

Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee, thanks for the opportunity to share my thoughts on HB 2792. My name is Liz Hamor. I'm a suburban soccer mom and business owner in Goddard. Some of you may know me from previous years advocating in opposition of bills similar to this one. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2792.

I've been an advocate with LGBTQ+ youth in Kansas for a decade, and I've watched as anti-trans bills have increased the hostility that LGBTQ+ youth face in their schools, homes, and communities.

You all have the power to set the tone for how Kansans will be treated. Many of you will state holding values of kindness, respect, and even love, but supporting these bills, allowing the dehumanizing rhetoric around them to have a platform in the Capitol, and the stochastic terrorism that is a result is anything but kind, respectful, or loving.

The dictionary defines "stochastic terrorism" as "the public demonization of a person or group resulting in the incitement of a violent act, which is statistically probable but whose specifics cannot be predicted: The lone-wolf attack was apparently influenced by the rhetoric of stochastic terrorism."

What happened to Nex Benedict was a preventable TRAGEDY. (Nex was a nonbinary teen in Oklahoma who was recently brutally assaulted in their school bathroom and died shortly after.) What happened to Nex was also a statistically probable outcome of the stochastic terrorism that is unleashed on innocent children when lawmakers debate these children's existence, humanity and rights.

The bills passed last year have certainly added to the hostility that my friends and youth with whom I advocate have faced. I know several families with a trans member who have moved out of Kansas since last year. Many will state that the increasing hostility feels like state-sanctioned violence. What else are young trans kids, trans adults, and their families and friends supposed to think when watching and listening to you debate their existence, their humanity, and their rights, especially when you're placing these topics over issues that \*actually\* greatly affect ALL Kansans?

It's a matter of time before a stochastic-terrorism-fueled preventable tragedy occurs in Kansas, and any lawmakers who vote for these bills that are based on animus will be culpable in the long gaze of history. History will not kindly remember the legislators who vote for HB 2792, which is a vote to discriminate and further dehumanize transgender Kansans. I encourage you to vote NO on HB 2792. Thank you.

HB 2792  
Margaret Schinstock  
Private Citizen  
2/22/2024  
moletta80@gmail.com  
Written Only  
Opponent

Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for the opportunity to share my thoughts on HB 2792 with you today. My name is Margaret Schinstock and I am a voter in Sedgwick County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on HB 2792

I am submitting comments today on this bill because I find it to be detrimental to the health and well-being of my fellow Kansans. It is ignoring years of scientific study and the opinions of experts in order to deny life saving medical treatment to trans people. It builds a wall between medical professionals and their patients, but also those professionals and their peers outside the state. Forcing outdated treatment plans while threatening the licensing. This bill will cause a medical brain drain from a state that is already facing a doctor shortage. This bill not only risks the lives of transgender young people, but all populations who seek care, as doctors will leave when they are not able to practice medicine legally and safely and in line with the best and most up-to-date research.

Medical decisions should not be made by politicians. Most of the legislators have the exact amount of medical training I do, and yet have no hesitation putting forward these items that will affect the care of people across the state. Medical Care for gender dysphoria is science based, and saves lives. This bill is discriminatory, singling trans youth out for unequal treatment, allowing cisgender and intersex youth access to the same exact care this bill bans for trans youth. Gender-affirming care is individualized to meet the needs of each patient, managed through a careful and evidence-based model of assessment and informed consent—which is already required by law. Requiring adherence to outdated guidelines in order to obstruct care is despicable and desperate behavior.

Thank you for your time reading and consideration of my statements. Please vote no on the passage of HB 2792.

HB 2792  
Matthew Golden  
Private citizen  
2/27/2024  
matthewfggolden@gmail.com  
Written only  
Opponent

Chairman Landwehr & Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2792 with you today. My name is Matthew Golen and I am a voter in Johnson County. I am a resident of Leawood in House District 20 and am opposed to this bill.

For those who are pro-life, gender-affirming care is life-saving, medically necessary, and evidence-based care for those with gender dysphoria. For that reason, every medical association argues against bills such as these. It is important to follow medical advice when we are making laws for the practice of medicine.

For those who are against government intervention, especially in healthcare, this bill argues for governmental tyranny. Gender-affirming care is individualized care to meet people where they are. It is managed through a careful & evidence-based model of assessment & informed consent. Patients, & their doctors should be able to make private medical decisions free from politicians.

The broad reach of this bill has significant harmful consequences beyond gender-affirming care. This bill does not define "promote", "provide", or "advocate," thus disrupting the life of anyone who interacts with trans youth, including teachers, school counselors, & daycare providers. In sum, the language of this bill discriminates against transgender Kansans & raises constitutional concerns about Kansans' free speech rights.

Instead of threatening & controlling children, parents, doctors, nurses, teachers, school counselors, & daycare workers, please focus on taking care of the rights of Kansans. All Kansans should be able to live & work without feeling unsafe. This bill does the exact opposite. If you are against government mandates & threats, please vote against this bill. Thank you for your consideration.



## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Bill Number: HB 2791 and HB 2792

Support:                      Oppose: X                      Neutral:

Testimony Will Be    Oral In-person:    Oral WebEx:    Written Only: X

For Meeting On:

Thursday, February 29th

Testimony By:

Matthew Obold-Geary

On Behalf Of:

Myself

Email Address: [oboldgeary@gmail.com](mailto:oboldgeary@gmail.com)

Telephone Number: 913-980-1013

Health and Human Services Committee

February 29, 2024

House Bill 2791 and House Bill 2792

Testimony in Opposition

Health and Human Services Committee:

I am writing to you to express my deepest concern and dismay about House Bill No.2797 and 2792 because of the disastrous impact it poses for transgender people under the age of 18 and for the transgender community as a whole.

As a person of trans experience, I can say with absolute certainty that gender-affirming care is a critical and life-saving component in improving a transgender person's quality of life and has been repeatedly endorsed by major medical associations as necessary.

The World Professional Association for Transgender Health has stated that "When gender-affirming medical treatment is provided with a standardized multidisciplinary assessment and treatment process, thorough informed consent, and ongoing monitoring and psychosocial support, the rate of regret of gender-affirming medical treatment commenced in adolescence has been observed to be very low, and the benefits of treatment in adolescence are potentially greater than the benefits of gender-affirming treatment commenced in adulthood." My own experience has echoed this sentiment as I have found transgender people, both over and under 18, to have high levels of identity integrity.

A person's medical decision should remain between that person and their medical team, free from any legislation restrictions. Any and all efforts to the contrary are the antithesis of freedom and are a gross overreach by our government.

This proposed bill is cruel, uninformed, discriminatory, and runs counter to current medical evidence, and will undoubtedly result in unnecessary pain and harm to the very constituents it claims to protect. I am in opposition to HB 2791 and 2792.

Matthew Obold-Geary  
24 February 2024



HB 2792  
Megan Roberts  
Private citizen  
2/22/2024  
Megz3287@gmail.com  
WRITTEN ONLY  
Opponent

Thank you members of the committee for hearing my thoughts today. I am Megan Roberts and a voter in Sedgwick County. I plead that you vote No on HB 2792.

This bill is too broadly stated to be considered safe for our transgendered youth. My child is transgender and has an amazing therapist that helps them just cope with life's stresses with school and work and family life. Most of the time, being Trans does not get brought up at all at school or work or home because everyone is so accepting of them and I'd love for life in Kansas to continue to be that way for them. Passing this bill will make my child's therapist at risk for providing gender affirming care. It will put my child at risk of harm in their medical appointments as their doctor would not be able to respect them as their preferred gender. This is not safe for children. Please block the passage of HB 2792

I appreciate you listening to me. I implore you to understand the difference between gender and sex and understand that since history began gender has been a social construct. The only thing this hurts are Christian ideals about what a family should be and we came to this country and fought for our independence to be SEPARATE FROM THE CHURCH. LET humanity continue to evolve and stop putting Christian ideals on everyone. It should be illegal. Thank you for hearing me out.

# LOUD LIGHT CIVIC ACTION

Melissa Stiehler  
Loud Light Civic Action  
Written Opponent Testimony of HB 2792  
For the House Health and Human Services Committee

February 29, 2023

Chair Landwehr and members of the Committee,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to provide testimony today. My name is Melissa Stiehler, and I serve as Advocacy Director of Loud Light Civic Action, a Kansas based, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that supports and builds the civic engagement and leadership of young people in our state. Loud Light Civic Action unapologetically supports the LGBTQ+ community, including their right to self-determination and access to life saving medical care without government interference. It is with these values that Loud Light Civic Action strongly opposes HB 2792.

## **Concern: Ignores Parental Rights**

HB 2792 effectively bans all gender affirming surgical care, regardless of scientific evidence, regardless of individual circumstance, and regardless of the will of the child's parents. Many members of the legislature and of this very committee have concerned themselves deeply with parental rights. This bill would strip loving, informed parents of their right to make the best medical choices for their child.

## **Concern: Places Government Barriers to the Fundamental Right of Bodily Autonomy**

While the constitutionally guaranteed right of bodily autonomy has been something many members of the legislature have openly disparaged, it is still the law of the land and the right of our people. HB 2792 is yet another attempt to disregard personal autonomy in favor of mandated misinformation and medical bans. This bill would mandate all healthcare providers, including mental health, nurses, and other providers outside of any surgical care, to comply with the 2017 Clinical Practice Guidelines from the Endocrine Society. These standards are outdated and not the most comprehensive available, meaning that doctors of transgender Kansans would be mandated by this legislative body to provide subpar medical care. These medical procedures are banned only for transgender children, while cisgender children are able to and currently receive access to the exact same care without government interference. Puberty blockers, hormone replacement therapy, and gender affirming surgical care are far more commonly prescribed to cisgender minors than they are to transgender minors, yet that is not for debate in this bill. If the true concern is the medical impact of these procedures on children, then why is the legislature not concerned with the medical impact for *all* children?

## **Concern: Government Restrictions on Kansans' Freedom of Self Determination**

One of the most fundamental values of a free society is its people being able to shape their own life without interference or discrimination from their government. HB 2792 is a classic example of a violation of Kansans' Right to Self-Determination. Efforts like HB 2792 are blunt attempts to "legislate away"

transgender Kansans by creating government bans to medically necessary, life-saving healthcare access. Simply put, it is not the government's business to mandate these things. Interference like this will make for a less free society for all Kansans.

**For these reasons, Loud Light Civic Action strongly urges members of this committee to oppose HB 2792,** and urges the legislature to please, leave transgender children and their families alone. It is not in the best interest for the state to place themselves in the middle of decisions best left to a patient, their parents, and their doctor. Thank you all for your time and I hope you take my testimony into consideration.



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February 29, 2024

Michael Poppa  
Executive Director  
contact@mainstream.vote

House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Chair, Rep. Brenda Landwehr

Re: Opposition Testimony, Written-only  
HB2791—"Prohibiting gender transition surgery on minors, authorizing professional discipline against a physician who performs such surgeries..."

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written opposition testimony on HB2791.

Fortunately, I am able to hand-deliver the five (5) hardcopies required by the chair. Unfortunately, that is not the case with all Kansans wishing to participate in the democratic process, and their voices go unheard. Respectfully, I urge you to consider updating the committee testimony guidelines to remove the unnecessary mandate for hardcopies. As elected officials, it is expected that you would champion the greatest level of public participation.

**Mainstream opposes HB2791.** Whether or not it was the original intent, this bill clearly discriminates in healthcare against transgender Kansans. And as we all know, most if not all discriminatory acts and beliefs are rooted in a subjective theological worldview.

Mainstream supports the constitutional guarantee of the separation of religion and government which protects the right of all Kansans to practice the faith of their choice, or none at all. We believe strongly that there is no place for government to impede the practice of one's faith, nor for religion to govern the people. HB2791 dangerously seeks to undermine science and established healthcare standards and instead govern Kansans religion on the basis of belief, not practice.

HB2791 effectively bans physicians licensed by the Board of Health and Healing Arts from providing "gender transition surgery" to trans people under 18. It mandates "healthcare providers" (including but not limited to therapists, nurses and physicians) to provide "transgender care services" in accordance with 2017 2017 Clinical Practice Guidelines from the Endocrine Society. These guidelines are not the most comprehensive standards of care for gender-affirming care, which means Kansas providers would be restricted to following outdated care guidelines mandated by politicians and unable to follow the most current, comprehensive standards of care recommended by health professionals.

Everyone has a right to access healthcare without discrimination and government overreach. Private, medically necessary health care decisions should be kept solely between the impacted individual(s), their health professionals and, if appropriate, their faith leader.

**Mainstream urges you to reject HB2791. Please do not turn personal, private healthcare decisions into partisan political tactics.**



HB 2792  
Molly Patton  
Private Citizen  
2/27/2024  
mpatton1991@gmail.com  
Written only  
Opponent

Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee, thank you for taking the time to hear my thoughts on HB 2792 today. My name is Molly Patton, and I am a voter living in Sedgwick County. I'm writing today to ask the committee to vote no on HB 2792.

My husband and I do not currently have children but if we did someday, we would want them to have the best healthcare possible, regardless of their gender identity. This bill would interfere with that. It puts doctors at odds with using the most updated practices for treatment as well as renders them incapable of doing right by their young transgender patients. Care for transgender minors is supported by the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, and the American Academy of Pediatrics, to name a few reputable major medical associations. Although the Endocrine Society is also a reputable body, its guidelines for gender dysphoric treatment haven't been updated since 2017. The medical community is always learning and updating its best practices for all avenues of healthcare. However, HB 2792 will lock Kansas healthcare providers in with standards that are presently seven years out of date.

My concerns about this bill come in part from my being a cisgender woman married to a transgender man. I have watched him navigate the medical system as he has medically transitioned here in the state of Kansas, from finding a doctor who would prescribe him hormones to undergoing a complete mastectomy during the pandemic. The hoops he had to jump through for the latter were long and complicated. It involved having two letters from two separate mental health professionals, approval from his health insurance, and many tests and doctor visits to ensure he was fit both physically and mentally for surgery. During this long process, not one healthcare professional displayed "professional incompetency", "unprofessional conduct", or falsely advertised that this would be anything but an intensely major operation. The doctors who are healthcare providers for Kansas's transgender citizens care so deeply about the health, comfort, and safety of their patients. They deserve to continue providing that care to the minors in our state without government interference.

There is already a rigid standard of care in place, one that frankly supersedes HB 2792. As written, it feels like a scare tactic to prevent doctors from providing lifesaving healthcare to our state's transgender youth. We owe them better than that. If a cisgender child talks about wanting a rhinoplasty or breast implants, no one so much as flinches. Cisgender individuals are allowed to use surgery to reach the physical look they desire for the sake of vanity or self-improvement, to better fit our idea of good looking. Transgender surgery, if that person chooses to undergo them, is a life saving practice. It is medically necessary and safe, something proven many times over by several different studies and organizations. HB 2792 seeks to discard all that evidence and punish healthcare professionals and transgender minors – neither of whom have done anything to deserve it.

Thank you for hearing my thoughts on this bill and for listening to my story. Please vote no on the passage of HB 2791.

Private citizen  
02-27-24  
monroe.hanson13@gmail.com

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for your time and consideration. My name is Monroe Hanson, I am a voter in Douglas County and resident of Lawrence, KS. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on HB 2792.

Puberty blockers have been used to treat precocious puberty in children since the 1980s, and were approved by the FDA in 1993. Puberty blockers have been proven to be safe and effective as a way to press pause on puberty until an appropriate time for puberty to occur and when someone is able to make an informed decision about their body and their healthcare.

"Statistics show us that LGBTQ+ youth are 120% more likely to experience homelessness and that 41% have considered suicide within the past year. Statistics also show that 1 in 3 LGBTQ+ youth have reported poor mental health due to legislation and policies that threaten their safety and a lack of access to care." Our children do need help; they need protecting. Bills like HB 2792 do not protect our children, they do immense & considerable harm. Our children deserve to be children, without the arm of the state punishing their existence. Gender affirming care is life saving. Save lives by voting no on HB 2792.

We are now living in 2 Americas. An America where it is safe to be trans in public. Where we can use the restroom at a restaurant. Where we can access life saving healthcare. Where we can update our legal documents to reflect who we are and how we live our lives. Where we are accepted at work and at school and our opportunities are not limited. Where our children can freely be children, can access the services they need, can participate in school sports, activities, trips, can be called the correct name and pronouns that helps them want to keep living. And an America where none of this is the case. An America where a 16 year old indigenous child is beat to death by their classmates in the bathroom that state law required them to use. An America where we are legally erased. An America where we are denied life saving healthcare. An America where we are not allowed to tell our stories, to exist in public, to merely use a public restroom. Lifelong residents, newcomers, individuals, partners, and families have already had to make the difficult choice to leave their home, to leave Kansas, in order to access the services that they or their child(ren) need. Wonderful people will continue to leave our state in the face of this discrimination. And wonderful people will stay and suffer and resist. Please do your part to reduce the suffering in this world. Let us live here.

In closing, I implore you, Chairman, and all esteemed members of the committee, to stand up for and with us and vote no on HB 2792. Let Kansas move forward with love and care for our children. Gender affirming care is scientifically sound, proven to be safe and effective, and is life saving healthcare. You can choose to make Kansas a place that people can live with dignity, where they can thrive and build a home and a future. I implore you to protect our future; vote No on HB 2792.

HB 2792  
Paris Raite  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
2/27/2023  
paris.raite@gmail.com  
WRITTEN ONLY  
OPPONENT

Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2792 with you today. My name is Paris Raite and I am a voter in Douglas County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on HB 2792.

Please, please, please stop targeting our trans youth and the doctors who want to provide them care! This bill would force doctors to use OUTDATED medicine, opening them to liability on top of potential license issues for providing care to their patients! It makes no sense that our legislature is targeting doctors who just want to provide care to their patients. PLEASE! Stop targeting the Kansans that you serve!

Once again, I thank you all for the time, and I encourage you all to VOTE NO of the passage of HB 2792. Thank you.

HB 2793  
Rachel McDaniel, LCSW, SEP  
Private Practice Psychotherapist  
2/27/2024  
rachel.mcdaniel@rlcwichita.com  
Written Only  
Opponent

Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2792 with you today. My name is Rachel McDaniel and I am a voter in Harvey County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on HB 2792

I am a Licensed Specialist Clinical Social worker in the State of Kansas. I work in private practice serving primarily the LGBTQ+ population. I write this testimony in an attempt to bring science to the discussion of gender affirming care.

The science I bring to you is from the World Professional Association on Transgender Health (WPATH). I attended their training in 2021 as part of better serving this population and my community. Through this training I learned half of Americans will present with a mental health condition at some time in their life. (American Psychological Association, 2013) Among those who identify as transgender, 41% will attempt suicide at some point in their life. According to the Centers for Disease Control suicide is the third leading cause of death in high school aged children and is on the rise in that age group. Within the transgender community 98% of transgender women report traumatic events and 91% report multiple traumatic events. This is compared to 17.8% of people within the general population reporting traumatic events. Of hate crimes committed, 72% are against transgender women.

We also know that the minority stress of being “othered” is associated with risks to chronic health. People who are “othered” get sick at higher rates, develop chronic conditions at higher rates, and die younger than their counterparts. Not caring for our transgender community members leads to great cost to our State as people become disabled requiring state support. People who are “othered” are more likely to be victimized, discriminated against, and receive lower quality of health care. When people in the transgender community do not have access to gender affirming care they are at higher risks for depression, anxiety, suicidality, and complex trauma. Gender affirming care mitigates these risks and keeps us from losing the diverse voices in our communities.

The scientific community knows that living in secret does not allow people to develop healthy psychological functioning. One of the foundations of being human is to be connected to others, which can not happen when our identity is criminalized. When we are not safe to be ourselves we struggle to develop trust, attachment, and the ability to be emotionally vulnerable with others. This bill threatens us all when it discriminates against people being their most authentic selves.

In my years of experience I have learned and watched people within the transgender community routinely tell me they did not expect to grow to adulthood. These people tell me they expect to die prematurely as a result of the way they are traumatized and become victims of hate crimes. I have

held space for people in modern America fearing for their lives because of who they are and the skin they are in.

This bill has overly broad definitions that pose a risk of real harm and possible loss of life through lack of legislation to provide the client-tailored approach necessary. This bill threatens my licensure and my clients. I am at risk of penalization for holding space for people vulnerably and authentically. This bill threatens my colleagues' licensure as they work to provide services such as school counseling, teaching, daycare, and other careers that are necessary for a thriving State. This bill raises constitutional concerns about freedom of speech. This bill puts the State of Kansas at risk of losing more of its valuable professional infrastructure that is already understaffed. I implore you to not pass this bill as it has ramifications for the future viability of the State of Kansas.

Transgender healthcare is a complex issue requiring far more delicate management than broad-sweeping legislative decisions. This is healthcare, which is complex and requires interventions tailored on an individual basis. The law is a blunt instrument, and one likely to cause harm that I prefer to think of as unintentional. Healthcare is the most capable of supporting people making these decisions in their daily lives. Please, leave healthcare to the healthcare professionals.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of HB 2792. Thank you.

HB 2792  
RAINE TOXTLE FLORES-PEÑA  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
2/27/2003  
titaniamemoriosa@gmail.com  
WRITTEN ONLY  
OPPONENT

Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to offer testimony against HB 2792. My name is Raine Toxtle Flores-Peña, and I am a voter of Douglas County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on HB 2792.

As a transgender adult, who used to be a transgender youth, this bill is cruel in targeting live saving care of trans youth. Trans youth, more than ever, are incredibly vulnerable in a climate and should have access to the life saving care that gender affirming. Especially when only 3 weeks ago Nex Bennedict two-spirit, non-binary youth was murdered in the girls bathroom of Owasso Highschool in Oklahoma, only a state down from us.

As a low-income transgender man, threatening healthcare providers to have their licence pulled for following current, scientifically supported medical care for patients is incredibly cruel. The clinic I receive gender affirming care from is also where I receive my general care, such as flu shots, dental care, and therapy. My doctor does gender affirming care for all ages, as well as my other healthcare providers. Threatening my doctors, therapists and more, to force them to follow outdated practices that are not in the best interest of their patients, will take away the healthcare team that make it possible for me to access ALL healthcare, not just gender affirming care. This will lead to worse health outcomes for Kansans, and considering Kansas is one of TEN states in the US who have not expanded Medicaid, I don't think it is wise to limit even more of our meager options.

Finally, I have lived in Kansas for more than 10 years. I am a citizen of Kansas regardless of this wave of hate against transgender people youth deserve to be treated the same as anyone else. We have feelings and emotions too, and to target such a vulnerable population for no reason other than bigotry is unfair to the next generation. We deserve to age, and access lifesaving healthcare, and to feel safe in our home state.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I ask that you all vote no for the passage of HB2792. Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB 2792  
REBECCA BROWN  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
2/27/2024  
bbrown\_kc@yahoo.com  
WRITTEN ONLY  
OPPONENT

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on HB 2792. My name is Rebecca Brown and I am a voter in Johnson County. I am writing to encourage the committee to vote no on HB 2792.

If your child experienced gender dysmorphia and was suicidal, would you rest easy knowing HB 2792 restricted your family's health care options?

This bill mandates use of outdated care standards. The 2017 Clinical Practice Guidelines from the Endocrine Society are not the most recent nor comprehensive guidelines for gender-affirming care. It also threatens physicians for following more up-to-date protocols. Kansans deserve better.

Health care decisions belong with parents and health care professionals. HB 2792 is an ill-advised attempt to regulate health care. It also singles out trans youth for unequal treatment. This is not "liberty for all."

Thank you for your consideration. Again, I encourage you all to vote no on HB 2792. Thank you.



HB 2792

Rev. Caela Simmons Wood

On behalf of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Manhattan and Kansas Interfaith Action

2/26/2024

pastor@uccmanhattan.org

Written Only

Opponent

Chairman Landwehr and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective on HB 2792 with you. Thank you, also, for your service to our great state. My name is Caela Simmons Wood. I am a fifth-generation Kansan living in Riley County. I have been an ordained Christian minister for almost 20 years. I am writing today in opposition to HB 2792.

As a pastor, I have seen first-hand the impact this legislation has on transgender Kansans. When bills like this are discussed, I know I will find myself in emergency rooms with teens and adults who have attempted suicide because they believe there is no hope for their future. My heart breaks for them. They, along with all other Kansans, are beloved children of God, created in the Divine image of Love. They have a right to pursue happiness and make a contribution to their communities. When they see legislators debating their basic humanity, they feel worthless and terrified. They lose hope.

Gender-affirming care literally saves lives. Medical decisions should be between a patient and their doctor (and the patient's guardians if the patient is a minor). Bills like this not only lead to suicides, they cause people to flee from Kansas. They will also make it difficult for us to recruit and retain medical professionals who do not want to have their hands tied by elected officials.

Again, thank you for taking the time to listen to your constituents and for all you do to serve our state. I urge you to side with Love and vote no on HB 2792. Thank you for your time.

HB 2792  
Rev. Caroline Dean  
Kansas Interfaith Action  
2/26/2024  
cwestlawson@gmail.com  
Written Only  
Opponent

Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2791 with you today. My name is Reverend Caroline Dean and I live in Douglas County. I partner with Kansas Interfaith Action and represent faith communities across the state. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on HB 2792.

My best friend has a gender fluid child. They are a gift to me and to our world. My friend is researching extensively to find the best care for her child. It is not a simple matter, but it is best left in the hand of families and doctors who know the exact situation best. Legislators are risking the lives of our Kansas youth by getting in between them and the professional sphere of health care. We should be supporting the best practice and standards of care that help all of our youth thrive.

Thank you for your time. Please vote no on the passage of HB2791. Blessings for the thriving of all of our Kansan youth and their families.

HB 2792  
Rev. Dr. Isabel Call  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Manhattan, Minister  
2/27/2024  
pastor@uufm.net  
WRITTEN ONLY  
OPPONENT

Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee, thank you for receiving my thoughts on HB 2792 with you today. My name is Isabel Call and I am a voter and a pastor in Manhattan. I am writing today to encourage you to vote no on HB 2792.

My religious community is unified around love and science, and we heartily reject any attempt to control the bodies of trans youth. We are loving grandparents, parents, mentors, and friends, and we do not need paternalistic oversight based on outdated and ideologically narrow conceptions of human biology.

While I understand you may be concerned about the impact of some non-reversible medical treatments like surgery, these are incredibly rare. With all due respect, you are not in a good position to assess what treatments are appropriate. What we do know for certain is that gender-affirming care is life-saving care. Trans kids without support are at high risk of mental health crises and suicide. This is why medical bodies and organizations across the country consistently warn that restricting this care threatens the lives of transgender young people. Passing this law will not only make it impossible for young Kansans to get the treatment they need; it also sends a message to all young people that trans lives don't matter, which ripples out socially into bullying.

It is uncomfortable to let go of the notion that gender is black and white. It may feel like the foundations of the family are at stake. But what is really lost? Who is harmed when a kid understands themselves differently from the people who first saw their genitalia at birth? Why is it anyone else's business what my gender is? My religious community knows from our thousands of trans members that our families are stronger when we are free to express our identities. We are stronger when we can ask for help and receive it. We are unified in resisting this effort to control our bodies and our families, which we know threaten the wellbeing of our children, the safety of our communities, and the ability of every family to determine what's best for their child.

Again, as a person of faith, I urge you to reject this bill. Do not risk the lives of young Kansans. Allow medical professionals to follow the best practice standards of care. Thank you.

HB 2792  
Rowan Scheuring  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
2/27/2024  
rowanscheuring@gmail.com  
WRITTEN ONLY  
OPPONENT

Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to express my thoughts regarding HB 2792. My name is Rowan A. Scheuring and I am a voter in Douglas County. I am writing today to urge the committee to vote no on HB 2792.

It is hard to overstate the destructive effect bills like this have on my community. It is heartbreaking having conversations with parents who are making plans to leave the state because of the fear that their children will be unable to receive care if they stay here. Some families have already left. As I'm sure you will hear and have heard from many others, bills like this go against the standards of care recommended by every major medical association, including the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Medical Association. It is our collective responsibility to foster an environment where everyone can live authentically and without fear of discrimination. I want to be proud to be a Kansan. I want to be able to confidently tell people that this is a safe and welcoming state that will support them rather than add to the oppression they experience. By voting against this bill, you have the opportunity to stand on the side of justice, compassion, and fairness.

Thank you all again for your time and consideration, and I encourage you all to vote no on the passage of HB 2792.

Samantha Lefebvre  
14682 S Constance St  
Olathe, KS 66062

Rep. Brenda Landwehr  
Health and Human Services Committee  
352 S Statehouse  
Topeka, KS 66612

February 25, 2024

Chair Landwehr and Committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 2792.

While this bill would prohibit surgery, it allows for gender affirming hormone therapy for minors.

Gender affirming care of any kind is not appropriate for minors because they do not have the capacity to give informed consent for care or treatments that have a profound, and in many cases irreversible, impact on their mental, physical, emotional, and social well-being.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Samantha Lefebvre

February 26, 2024

HB 2792

Opponent

Written only testimony

Shelby Bretton

Chairwoman Brenda Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

I do not support this bill.

HB 2792  
Sherry Cooper  
Private citizen  
2/23/2024  
s-cooper@cox.net  
Written only  
Opponent

Chairman Landwehr and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to express my opposition to HB 2792. My name is Sherry Cooper and I am a voter in Reno County.

The 2017 Clinical Practice Guidelines from the Endocrine Society mandated by this bill are neither the most recent nor the most comprehensive standards of gender-affirming care. Forcing providers to use an outdated standard compromises the proper medical treatment of individuals in their care. A farmer may be an expert farmer, and a businessman may have a way with money, but neither are medical experts and neither should be marking the limits of medical practice to suit their purposes when current treatment is individualized to meet the needs of each patient, managed through a careful and evidence-based model of assessment and informed consent. This and other such bills that have become popular recently are opposed by medical bodies, are detrimental to the care of patients, and to their families, and are superfluous if there are no clinics performing surgery on minors, which, to my understanding, is not available in Kansas.

Thank you for hearing my thoughts and I strongly encourage you to vote a resounding no on the passage of HB 2792.

HB2792  
Susan Ray  
Private citizen  
2/27/2024  
susieeray@gmail.com  
WRITTEN ONLY  
Opponent

Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee, thank you for letting me share my thoughts on HB 2792 today. My name is Susan Ray and I am a voter in Reno County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on HB 2792

Politicians risk lives of young Kansans by forcing themselves between youth and their doctors and forcing doctors to do their jobs according to legislators' non-medical based dictates. Doctors need to be able to provide best practice standards of care to all of their patients without fear of government interference. Informed-consent is already part of affirming care. Families and doctors are the best ones to determine care for young patients, not uninformed, unsupporting, and unwelcomed adults in Topeka. When compared with general medical care that is available to other youth, this Bill would harm transgender children by withholding similar care, clearly demonstrating a bias against transgender Kansans.

Thank you for listening to my concerns with this bill. I encourage you all to vote no on HB 2792.  
Thank you.



HB 2792  
Tammy Quayle  
Private Citizen, Parent of a Transgender Young Adult  
2/27/2024  
mnquayle@gmail.com  
Written Only  
Opponent

Members of the Committee, thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts about HB 2792. My name is Tammy Quayle and my family is from Wichita. Our oldest child is transgender and has been receiving wonderful medical care that has greatly improved her life. Because of the benefits I have seen firsthand, I am writing to ask you to vote NO on HB 2792.

Six years ago our oldest child came out to us and told us she was transgender. She had known she was for many years before she felt brave enough to tell us, but kept it to herself until the gender dysphoria was so acute that she couldn't bear her life any longer. We needed help and we needed answers. Considering less than 2% of the population is transgender, we had never met anyone or other families who were in our situation. We prayed that God would guide us in helping her and finding the path she needed.

Luckily for us, our prayers were answered. We found an excellent medical team that helped us navigate her care. The doctors gave us advice based on science, facts, and real data. I'm very grateful to have professionals with expertise in this area help us create a treatment plan. I am so blessed to live in a state that allowed my husband and I the right to make decisions for our child with her medical team. I implore you not to take away the right for parents to make these decisions with their child and their doctors.

My child is now a thriving young adult. I have witnessed how my daughter has flourished with the proper medical care that is approved by the American Medical Association, the Endocrine Society, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American Academy of Pediatrics, just to name a few. She has no regrets in her transition, nor do we. After the last six years of receiving hormones and medical care, I can say she is living her best life. She is an honor student, an Eagle Scout, and volunteers in the community. She is a real asset to the great state of Kansas! To take away her care means she would have to leave the state. Kansas shouldn't have families fleeing our state to receive care that major medical organizations have approved.

Transgender children deserve quality evidence-based medical care, like my daughter was so fortunate to receive. Parents should have the right to make these decisions. Kansas families should have the freedom to pursue medically approved treatments for gender dysphoria. Please vote NO on the passage of HB 2792.

Thank you,  
Tammy Quayle  
Wichita, Kansas



*End discrimination based on  
sexual orientation and  
gender identity*

Statement of Taryn Jones  
Lobbyist, Equality Kansas  
In Opposition to HB 2792  
House Committee on Health and Human Services  
February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Good afternoon, Madame Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Taryn Jones, and I am the lobbyist for Equality Kansas. I am writing to you today in opposition to HB 2792. This is the second year in a row that the Kansas Legislature has tried to pass gender affirming care bans that target the trans community. The Kansas Legislature has made it clear over the past few years with proposed legislation that parents rights trump all. Our own Attorney General Kris Kobach said parents have a “right to direct the care, upbringing and education of our children.” So, which is it? Either parents have a right to make the decisions that they think are best for their children or the government has a right to decide what is best for our children. You can’t have your cake and eat it too.

This legislature has been told time and time again that surgeries on minors are very rare. Just like the legislature was told that trans athletes in the state of Kansas are very rare. Why does that Kansas legislature continue to pick on a very select number of children? It’s time that the legislature picks on someone their own size. If you truly care about the welfare of children, you will vote no on HB 2792. According to a 2023 survey of trans youth done by the Trevor Project 42% of LGBT youth thought about attempting suicide and for trans and non-binary youth specifically that number jumped to over half. If were talking about “protecting children” the clear way to do that is to let parents and trans children decide what kind of care is right for them. Are we interested in protecting all children, or just the ones the legislature deems worthy? I ask you to vote no on HB 2792.



Testimony of Taylor Morton, Kansas Lobbyist and Policy Analyst (written testimony)  
Planned Parenthood Great Plains Votes  
4401 W. 109th Street, Suite 200, Overland Park, KS 66211  
Regarding HB 2792 (Opponent)  
House Committee on Health and Human Services  
February 29, 2024

Planned Parenthood Great Plains Votes (“PPGPV”) is the political and advocacy arm of Planned Parenthood Great Plains (“PPGP”). PPGP offers expert, compassionate sexual and reproductive health care to patients with three health center locations in Kansas. PPGPV submits this testimony in opposition to House Bill 2792. HB 2792 would ban gender-affirming surgery for patients under age 18—even with parental consent. This bill threatens physicians licensed by the Board of Healing Arts with professional discipline for providing such surgical care, and it would mandate unacceptable health care standards. Under HB 2792, providers would be restricted to following outdated care guidelines that may cause disruption or barriers to accessing gender-affirming care.

This bill makes no exceptions for trans patients under age 18 whose parents support their decision to begin gender affirming care. All parents want what is best for their children, including making sure their children get the medical care that they need. This bill would prohibit parents from making sure their children receive evidence-based care at the recommendation of their providers. Extreme claims that physicians are providing “sex reassignment” to minors without counseling and careful consideration or are “experimenting on children” are sensationalized claims that only encourage stigma and distrust of trans individuals.

It is also offensive to claim that medical professionals provide gender-affirming care to their patients without securing valid informed consent. Informed consent is the foundation for any medical treatment and includes extensive discussions between the health care provider and their patient and their parent/legal guardian if the patient is a minor. The medical care that is appropriate will differ for everyone, and the decision about when and how to provide gender-affirming care should not be made by politicians, but by the patient – along with their parents and/or legal guardian if the patient is under age 18 – in consultation with the medical professionals and counselors who understand their case.

Denial of gender-affirming care has been shown to contribute to depression, social isolation, self-hatred, risk of self-harm, and suicidal ideation and behavior. Transgender youth are more likely to feel depressed and anxious, harm themselves, or attempt suicide. Transgender and nonbinary youth are 2-2.5 times as likely to experience depressive symptoms, seriously consider suicide, and attempt suicide than their cisgender LGBTQ+ peers.<sup>1</sup> Even the introduction of discriminatory, anti-trans legislation is harmful for trans youth, especially considering the stigmatizing messages around these bills.<sup>2</sup> Access to gender-affirming care—particularly puberty blockers—has been shown to decrease the likelihood of suicide and

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X\(19\)30922-X/fulltext](https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X(19)30922-X/fulltext)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/blog/new-poll-illustrates-the-impacts-of-social-political-issues-on-lgbtq-youth/>



depression among transgender and nonbinary youth. Furthermore, individuals who are accepted and supported in their gender identity show better mental health and quality of life outcomes.<sup>3</sup>

HB 2792 presents major concerns with access to lifesaving gender-affirming care, as well as serious government interference with health care more broadly. Patients do not want politicians in their exam rooms, and it is not the place of the government to decide what medical course of action is best for patients. It is the role of medical providers, patients, and their parent/guardian if said patient is under age 18. PPGPV strongly urges the Committee to vote against HB 2792.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/sgd0000130>

HB2792

Thomas A. Alonzo

I am a private citizen and am also chair of Equality Kansas

2/27/2024

dotteau@gmail.com

written only

opponent

Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee, thank you for permitting me time to share my thoughts with you on HB2792 today. My name is Thomas Alonzo and I am a voter in Wyandotte County and Chair of Equality Kansas

We recently heard about the nonbinary teen that died in Owasso, OK after suffering a severe beating in the high school bathroom. Some of you may not take this seriously. Some of you may dismiss it as high school antics (anyone that dismisses violence anywhere, has no business making laws for the rest of us.), some of you will argue that the death was not a result of the beating. The jury is not in yet on whether head trauma was the cause or not as it can take many hours to days to weeks for that to manifest. So, we really don't know. What we do know is that legislation by states banning any kind of care or assistance to transgender, nonbinary and intersex patients (especially teens) has resulted in suicidal ideations and completions by children and adults in the LGBTQ+ community. THAT is a fact whether or not you choose to believe it or not. We know that legislatures enacting various legislation aimed at the persecution, restriction and marginalization of an already marginalized community, gives tacit permission to others to mistreat, to marginalize already marginalized people. There are a lot of folks out there that think some people deserve what they get even if it is a beating or worse. Many people take their cue from the way their elected officials behave.

It has been proven over and over and over ad nauseum that gender-affirming care is necessary to good mental health and development. The vast majority of the mental health and medical authorities across the United States have stated vigorously that the policies you are espousing impose and clear and present danger on the lives of Transgender people.

Again, we have a proposal where the legislature thinks they know more than experts in the field of mental health and medicine. Again. How arrogant and UNHEALTHY.

Science tell us that gender dysphoria is real and treatment is necessary and that include gender affirming care. What if it were your child or your grandchild or someone that you loved? What if you had to flee the state. I know many that have. I know some that have left our country because they fear for their children because of proposed legislation like this.

Gender-affirming care is provided according to individual needs after close and comprehensive evaluation.

Patients and their families should not have to fear being denied life-saving, gender-affirming care under the close supervision of a physician and mental health professional. Additionally, Transgender

youth deserve the opportunity to blossom and grow and achieve their life goals as their authentic selves. For many years, I was denied the opportunity to express my authentic self as a gay man. I hid in a dark, destructive closet for almost 9 years as I served in the United States Air Force. I hid myself in terror from my friends and family until I was 27 years old. When I finally came out, my mother told me that I acted like the weight of the world had been lifted off my shoulders and it HAD! Please have compassion. Please try to understand what the Transgender person and their families are going through. Let's stop the persecution, the marginalization, the attempts to erase them. Because, we will not be erased.

If you believe in the human spirit, the belief that we all have a right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, please vote no on this dangerous and life-threatening bill.

HB 2792  
Tiffany Moos  
Private Citizen  
2/27/2024  
tiffjones81@gmail.com  
Written Only  
Opponent

Thank you, committee members, for giving me the time to express my thoughts on HB 2792. My name is Tiffany Moos and I'm a registered Voter in Harvey County.

I'm writing today, as a friend and family member of transgender individuals to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2792. I can't imagine how much lower their quality of life would be without adequate gender-affirming care. The protocols followed by many providers are evidence-based and proven not only to improve the lives of transgender people, but SAVE lives by helping align their bodies with their minds and hearts. This medical care brings about feelings of normalcy and balance to those who feel they were born in the wrong body.

Once again, I thank you for your time and for hearing my thoughts on this bill. I encourage you to vote NO on the passage of HB 2792, saving lives while doing so.



Timothy R. Graham  
Director of Government Relations & Legislative Affairs  
Written Testimony – Opponent  
House Committee on Health & Human Services  
House Bill 2792  
February 29, 2024

Chairperson Landwehr, members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 2792.

A survey released by the Trevor Project organization in December of 2022 indicated that more than 50% of transgender and non-binary youth across the U.S. seriously considered suicide in 2021. The report of the survey notes, “States where lawmakers have aggressively pursued anti-trans legislation, have extraordinarily high levels of suicide risk.”

To put it simply, Kansas NEA believes that Senate Bill 2792 is dangerous to Kansas youth.

When transgender youth feel supported by their families and medical providers, they have better health outcomes. When they feel affirmed, they experience less suicidal thoughts and attempts, increased self-esteem, and more feelings of safety in their community; all of which impacts their ability to learn better in the classroom.

Kansas NEA believes in allowing Kansas youth the freedom to be themselves. We want all students to be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of their races, backgrounds, genders, or religions. We stand with Kansas children and their families, and we believe everyone should have the right to access the healthcare they need to survive and thrive.

We ask the committee to reject 2792.



February 26, 2024/Written Only/Opposition

Dear Chairperson Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

As a mother and local church pastor, it grieves my heart to see our elected officials working against the health and well-being of vulnerable children in Kansas. **Every child is made in God's image**, bearing the imprint of love and hope. When we treat some children as second-class citizens, unworthy of medical care which is readily available to other children, I believe it grieves the heart of God. **We can do better.**

**House Bills 2792 is not the best we can do for our children.**

Medical care for gender dysphoria is evidence-based, medically necessary, and safe - which is why **every major medical association advocates against bills like these**. Patients, families, and their doctors should have the freedom to make their own private medical decisions—not politicians. Trans youth deserve the same chance to thrive as their peers—but these bills single trans youth out for unequal treatment, allowing cisgender and intersex youth **access to the same exact care these bills ban for trans youth**.

Gender-affirming care is life-saving care. These dangerous efforts to control our bodies and our families threaten the wellbeing of our children, the safety of our communities, and the ability of every family to determine what's best for their child.

Restrictions on this care are opposed by medical bodies and organizations across the country who consistently warn such policies threaten the lives of transgender young people. Gender-affirming care is individualized to meet the needs of each patient, managed through a careful and evidence-based model of assessment and informed consent—**which is already required by law**.

Every form of treatment prohibited under these bills is also accessed by non-transgender young people to treat other conditions, **but this bill only bans them for trans youth**. Politicians are risking the lives of young Kansans by forcing their way between them and their doctors and **forcing doctors to do their job as the legislature dictates—rather than as the best practice standards of care for their medical field instruct them to**.

Codifying medical guidelines into law is **unnecessarily restrictive**—as the guidelines may grow outdated and **require constant updates from the legislature, disrupting medical practice in the state**. Allowing legislators to select the professional practice guidelines for any profession—but especially in health care—is an **overreach by the government**, hindering medical professional's ability to advance treatment that is consistent with science and the most up-to-date standards of care available to their profession. Legislation like this guarantees a brain drain in the state of Kansas as **medical professionals seek other states in which to practice**.

Please send these bills back to the drawing board – or to the round file trash can where they belong.

In peace,  
Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller-Coleman  
Kansas Interfaith Action

HB 2792  
VALERIE ROPER  
PRIVATE CITIZEN  
2/26/2024  
vgvproper@gmail.com  
WRITTEN ONLY  
OPPONENT

Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee, I am grateful for the time you've given me to share my thoughts on HB 2792 with you today. My name is Valerie Roper and I am a voter in Douglas County. I am writing today to urge the committee to vote no on the passage of HB 2792.

I didn't know much about transgender health care until a few years ago when I came to know some transgender adults as well as a few parents of transgender children in our congregation. Discussions with them became more personally relevant after a youth in my large extended family identified as transgender a year later. I have been learning a lot through this time, as have these families. I have seen caring families anguished when their children were bullied in school and on social media, sometimes leading to their child's serious, even life-threatening depression. I have seen a trans child's life turn around when they were given gender-affirming care, leading to improvement in their overall well-being and a huge improvement in their scholastic performance. I have learned what can happen when medical professionals turn transgender youth away, and what can happen when gender-affirming care is provided.

Here are the facts others have noted and which ring true in what I've learned these past few years:

- Gender-affirming care is life-saving medical care. I am aware of multiple examples of this in what I have learned.
- Gender-affirming medical care is evidence-based, medically necessary and supported by every major medical association. As is true in every medical field, it is updated with new findings and better ways of administering care.
- Patients, families, and their doctors should be the decision makers for private medical decisions. These are highly individualized decisions based on the needs of each patient. (Aren't those the decision makers we seek for ourselves when we need medical care, and don't we want those decisions to be highly individualized to meet our unique needs?) These complex decisions are not properly the purview of politicians.
- Trans youth deserve the same chance as their peers. That includes having access to the medical care they need.

I urge you to let these truths guide you in your consideration of HB2792 and bring a decision to vote no on its passage. If you vote no, you will be allowing medical professionals to provide the most current transgender care services available, and with the patient and patient's family to make individualized decisions based on the patient's needs and according to the best practice standards of care without fear of legislative reprisal. Please take that positive path. Thank you again for this opportunity to share a bit of my learning path so far and my hopes for the future of Kansas.

HB 2792  
Veronica Holtz  
Private Citizen  
2/27/2024  
veronicaleeholtz@gmail.com  
WRITTEN ONLY  
OPPONENT

Chairman Landwehr and Members of the Committee, thank you for providing me the opportunity to share my thoughts on HB 2792. My name is Veronica Holtz and I'm a voter in Sedgwick County. I'm asking the committee to please vote NO on HB 2792.

Gender-affirming care is unequivocally life-saving, supported by medical bodies nationwide, and essential for the well-being of transgender youth. This bill would require healthcare professionals to follow outdated standards to the detriment of Kansans. Every patient deserves the right to make private medical decisions with their doctor, free from political interference, to ensure the best outcomes for their health and future.

Please do the right thing and vote no on HB 2792. Thank you for your time.