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Testimony in Opposition of SB 180  
House Committee on Education  
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Members of the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 180. I am a professor at Wichita State University who conducts research and teaches in the areas of sex and gender, research methods, and adolescence and the transition to adulthood. I am writing to urge you to vote against SB 180.

SB 180 articulates an incorrect understanding of biological sex and differences between men and women that is not consistent with current science. I regularly teach a course on gender in which we review current research on sex development and differences between men and women. **Current science on gender differences is clear that men and women are much more similar than they are different.** For example, a meta-synthesis by Zell and colleagues published in *American Psychologist* in 2015 is strong evidence of the overlap and similarity among males and females along most traits. A meta-synthesis is a research method that examines the degree of consensus across research studies by examining the average finding across studies. This study, cited over 250 times by other researchers, found that for 85% of traits there was little to no difference between males and females. Importantly, even for those traits, such as throwing ability, where there were larger average differences, there was still significant overlap among males and females.

Research is also clear that biological sex is not straightforward and does not always fit neatly into our categories of male and female. **Approximately 1-2% of the population is intersex, that is, they are born with variation in sex characteristics.** This means for example that they are not genetically XX or XY, their reproductive organs developed differently than their genetic makeup would predict, and/or their external genitalia are inconsistent with their internal reproductive organs. In addition, there is a great deal of variation in levels of sex hormones, and some women are born with higher levels of testosterone while some men naturally have lower levels of testosterone. These hormone levels are also not static – they increase and decrease in response to environment and behavior (for example, testosterone rises after engaging in competitive sports).

This bill ignores the actual science on sex and gender, and rather is premised on gender stereotypes and an overly simplistic view of sex. While the bill claims to establish a women's bill of rights, it demonstrates a regressive and harmful view of women. **Trans people are not a threat to women's rights. Patriarchal ideas about men's superiority, ideas clearly reflected in this bill, are a threat to women's rights.**