

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee January 28, 2026  
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**SANDERS:** Good afternoon and welcome to the Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee. I am Senator Rita Sanders from Bellevue representing the 45th Legislative District and I serve as the committee chair. The committee will take up bills in the order, in the order posted. This public hearing is your opportunity to be part of the legislative process and to express your position on the proposed legislation before us. Please note that due to the numbers of testifiers here today, we will follow the standard guidelines of the annotated hearing. This is to ensure that everyone who wants to testify will have an opportunity to do so. Annotated hearing procedures will be followed for large attended public hearings. This can be decided by the chair at the beginning of the hearing, unexpected large crowds, otherwise prior notice will be on the printed hearing schedule. Individuals who will be testifying will be granted 3 minutes to present their testimony; 1 hour of proponents, followed by 1 hour of opponent testimony, testimony, followed by some time provided for the neutral testimonies. Then we cycle back through 1 hour, 1 hour, neutral testimony format. Only proponents will be allowed into the hearing room for the first hour. After such hour, the room will be cleared and the opponents allowed in for the second hour and so on. Overflow attendance to be seated in the overflow room, room number 1200, and managed by the Sergeant at Arms. If the hearing runs long, we may take a 30-minute dinner break at 5 p.m. If you are planning to testify today, please fill out one of the green testifier sheets that are on the table in the back of the room. Please be sure to print clearly and fill it out completely. When it is your turn to come forward to testify, give the testifier sheet to the page or the committee clerk. If you do not wish to testify but would like to indicate your position on the bill, there are also yellow sign-in sheets in the back of the room on the table. These sheets will be included as an exhibit in the official hearing record. When you come up to testify, please speak clearly into the microphone, tell us your name, and spell your first and last name to ensure that we get the accurate record. We will begin the bill hearing today with the introducer's opening statements, followed by 1 hour of proponents, then 1 hour of opponents, and 1 hour in the neutral. We will finish with a closing statement by the intruder [SIC] if they wish to give one. We will be using a 3-minute light system for all testifiers. When you begin your testimony, the light on the table will be green. When the yellow light comes on, you have 1 minute remaining, and the red

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light indicates your time has ended. Questions from the committee may follow. Also, committee members may come and go during the hearing. This is nothing to do with the importance of the bill that's being heard, it's just part of the process, as senators may have bills to introduce in other committees. A final item to facilitate today's hearing: If you have any handouts or copies of your testimony, please bring at least 12 copies and give them to the page. If you do not have enough copies, the page will make sufficient copies for you. Please silence and turn off your cell phone. You may see committee members using their electronic devices to access more information. Verbal outbursts or applause are not permitted in the hearing room. Such behavior may be cause for you to be asked to, to leave the hearing. Finally, committee procedures for all committees state that written position comments on a bill to be included in the record must be submitted by 8 a.m. the day of this hearing. The only acceptable method of submission is via the Legislature's website at nebraskalegislature.gov. Written position letters will be included in the official hearing record, but only those testifying in person before the committee would be included in the committee statement. I will now have the committee members with us today introduce themselves starting on my far right.

**HUNT:** Hi, everyone, I'm Megan Hunt, and I represent District 8 in the northern part of midtown, Omaha.

**GUERECA:** Good afternoon. Dunixi Guereca. I represent LD 7, downtown and south Omaha.

**J. CAVANAUGH:** Good afternoon. John Cavanaugh. I represent District 9 in midtown Omaha.

**ANDERSEN:** Good afternoon. Bob Andersen, represent District 49, northwest Sarpy County in Omaha.

**LONOWSKI:** Hello, I'm Dan Lonowski from District 33, which is Adams County, Kearney County, and rural Phelps County.

**WORDEKEMPER:** Dave Wordekemper, District 15, Dodge County, western Douglas County.

**F. MEYER:** Fred Meyer, District 41, a little over six counties in central Nebraska, north of Grand Island.

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**SANDERS:** Thank you. I will also let, let you know that Senator Bob Andersen is the Chair-- Vice Chair of the Government Committee. Also assisting the committee today to my right is our legal counsel, Dick Clark; and to my far left is our committee clerk, Julie Cash. We have two pages for the committee today, and they are Luke Perry from Gretna who is a freshman at UNO majoring in history and political science, and Grace Harper from Loveland, Colorado who is a junior at UNL and majoring in political science. Thank you very much. And with that, we will begin the hearing for today on LB730. Welcome, Senator Kauth.

**KAUTH:** Thank you very much, Senator Sanders. Good afternoon, Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee. My name is Kathleen Kauth, K-a-t-h-l-e-e-n K-a-u-t-h, and I represent LD 31 in the Millard area of Omaha. This bill is a privacy portion of the Stand With Women Act, LB89, from 2025. During debate, we were forced to remove the portions that address the right to privacy and safety in single-sex spaces such as bathrooms and locker rooms. This bill is what was pulled out of the amended LB89. It is what voted out of committee last year. It requires public schools, public postsecondary educational institutions, and state agencies to designate restrooms and locker rooms based on sex and prohibit use by the opposite sex as prescribed, and requires each state agency to define an individual sex as either male or female for purposes of rules and regulations, the enforcement of administrative actions, and adjudication of disputes. This is a commonsense measure that establishes the right to privacy in intimate spaces for both sexes, as has been the case for decades. When we discuss biology, there is no doubt that there are only two sexes: male and female. If we truly believe in science, there are no other options. Let's look at the definitions. Female means an individual who naturally has, had, will have, or would have, but for a congenital anomaly or intentional or unintentional disruption the reproductive system that at some point produces, transports, and utilizes eggs for fertilization. Female includes a woman and a girl. Male means an individual who naturally has, had, will have, or would have, but for congenital, anomaly, or intentional, or unintentional disruption the reproductive system that at point produces transports and utilizes sperm for fertilization. Male includes a man and a boy. What this committee needs to determine is, does the law still recognize biological sex as a meaningful and legitimate category, or can it be erased in favor of subjective identity claims? Belief does not trump biology, it is impossible to change your sex. Access to female

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bathrooms and locker rooms must be restricted to females. We need a compassionate approach to protecting everyone's privacy. Males and females are biologically different, ignoring this truth harms real people. Our laws and policies should recognize and respect that males and females are biologically different. Respecting these biological differences is essential to ensuring the privacy, dignity, and safety of both sexes. Sex-specific showers, restrooms, and locker rooms are a commonsense solution to protect the bodily privacy and safety of all. We must show compassion to all children, particularly those experiencing the pain of gender-related distress. These children need our love and support, and we should ensure our laws and policies never harm them by denying biological reality. Women and girls have a right to single-sex spaces such as bathrooms and locker rooms. They should never be forced into situations where they are undressed in front of men or forced into viewing undressed men. Girls just starting to deal with periods will be uncomfortable and vulnerable managing personal hygiene with boys around. The safety of women and girls is jeopardized when males are permitted into single-sex spaces like bathrooms and locker rooms. Men and boys must also have the same certainty of a single-sex locker room or bathroom. The safety issue is not as distinct, but the right to privacy in intimate spaces must be upheld. It is far more likely that a woman will be assaulted than a man, which will be the primary focus of this discussion. Emotional safety is distinct from physical safety, but equally important. It may relate to religious needs, previous experiences, or expectations of single-sex environment. When the law tells women that their discomfort, fear, and trauma must take a backseat to a man's identity claim, it sends a chilling message that women do not matter. These are some of the global conversations in defense of women. According to the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls from the UN General Assembly, Reem Alsalem, sex is defined by the United Nations as the physical and biological characteristics that distinguish males and females. That's from their gender equality glossary. The conflation of the category of sex with the category of gender identity hinders the protection of women and girls from violence perpetrated against them by men and boys. It increasingly enables men who consider that they have a female gender identity to claim access to female single-sex victim support services and spaces as both service users and as service providers. This includes specialist single-sex provisions for women and girls who have been subject to violence such as shelters and health care facilities. It also includes other services in which

single-sex provision is crucial to the promotion of the physical safety, health, privacy, and dignity of women and girls. The presence of men and female single-sex spaces and services undermines the role of these services in protecting women and girls and could make women and girls vulnerable to violent men who may claim a female gender identity. Single-sex provision should include specialized services for women and girls subject to violence, such as rape support services, specialist health facilities, specialist police investigation facilities, and shelters for women and children fleeing domestic abuse and other violence. It should also include all other services within which single-sex provisions promote the physical safety, privacy, and dignity of women and girls. These include prisons, health services and hospital wards, substance misuse rehabilitation centers, accommodation for the homeless, toilets, showers, and changing rooms, and any other enclosed space where individuals reside or may be in a state of undress. Single-sex facilities designed to meet the needs of women and girls should be at least equal in availability and quality to those provided to men and boys. These facilities should not include men who claim to have female gender identities. When we blur the lines between men's and women's spaces, women are at heightened risk of sexual violence, assault, and injury, because men, generally speaking, are stronger and more capable of overpowering women. The insistence on maintaining female-only spaces, along with safeguarding and risk management protocols, arises from empirical evidence demonstrating that sex offenders tend to be male and that persistent sex offenders go to great lengths to gain access to those they wish to abuse. If anyone can identify as a woman or a girl, then sex is no longer a protected category and deserves no consideration in the formation of law and policy. The ACLU admitted as much in their January 13, 2026 oral arguments for *Little v. Hecox*, where they were unable to define sex for equal protection purposes. However, the biological reality of the female sex exists regardless of law or policy that pretends otherwise. The correct course for any legislating body would be to acknowledge those biological differences to foster safety, fairness, dignity, and equal opportunity for public participation between the sexes. Segregating public bathrooms by sex has always been necessary to ensure women and girls full and equal participation in public life. Everyone, no matter their race, religion, or other identifying qualities, is either male or female. Therefore, no one is denied the opportunity to participate in public life by having bathrooms and changing rooms designated by sex. Separating these intimate spaces

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ensure privacy, safety, and fairness for girls and women apart from boys and men. Let's look at some of the predictable and avoidable outcomes of removing single-sex intimate spaces. A male student who wore skirts to school raped a female student in the girls' bathroom and sexually assaulted another woman in a classroom. That was in Leesburg, Virginia, 2021. An 18-year-old male student walked naked into the shower where 14-year old freshman girls were present, announced that he was trans in Wisconsin, 2023. A registered sex offender and convicted pedophile who is male and transgender exposed himself to women and girls in multiple high school and recreation center female locker rooms in Arlington and Fairfax, Virginia. And that was in October 2024. A now adult man who was transgender entered a Denny's women's bathroom and sexually assaulted a 10-year-old girl when he was 17. That was in 2022. The incident happened in 2014, but it was not reported until 2022. A male student who is transgender viciously beat multiple female students and exposes genitals to classmates in the female locker room, Riverside, California, 2023. Female high school student testified at school board meeting about a lack of respect for girls' privacy and dignity due to the actions of that individual. Middle school girls voice concerns about a boy identifying as transgender who started using the girls' bathroom after he began to identify as a girl, New Hampshire, April of 2025. Girls at Deerfield Middle School forced to change in front of a boy who was transgender in their locker room. The door was allegedly barricaded by administrators to prevent the girls from leaving. Deerfield, Illinois, April of 2025. California teen girl in tears about being forced to share a locker room with a male student. The student was transgender and watched the girls change. The lawmaker told her to wrap it up. That was in Arroyo Grande, California, April 2025. High school girls punished for objecting to having to share a locker room with a boy who was granted access because he identified as transgender. Kenosha, Wisconsin, March 2025. Parents file a lawsuit as their daughters' objections to using the bathroom with males were ignored. Girls were told to tolerate it and make it as natural as possible because the boy identified as transgender. Vicksburg, Michigan, August 2023. Male who was transgender with a history of sexual harassment and allegedly masturbating in the girls' bathroom viciously beats female student, Bar Harbor, Maine, October 2024. Woman shocked as she and her 7-year-old daughter exposed to naked transgender male in the women's locker room at the Kansas YMCA, Kansas City, April, 2025. Payton McNabb confronts a man who's transgender in the women's bathroom at

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her university in North Carolina. Loudon County teenage boys subjected to Title IX complaint after a girl who is transgender recorded the boys discussing their discomfort with her using their locker room, May of 2025. One of the boys moved out of state because of the fear for his permanent record. Complaint received in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida about a male in women's locker room at the Lifetime Fitness, the Florida AG is investigating, May 2025. Colorado State House female legislative staffers filed a complaint about a man who's also an aide using the women's bathroom. Female staffers are being intimidated and bullied. Denver, Colorado, May 2025. Two high school girls expressed discomfort and concerns about boys being allowed in girls' locker rooms at their schools in Texas after the high profile rape by a male in the girls' bathroom in Virginia, November 2021. Multiple women object to a man who asserts his transgender status allows him access to the women's locker room. The man, the man parades around the locker room naked, does all of his grooming naked, his actions have led many women to cease attending the YMCA, San Francisco, California, May 2025. A 12-year-old girl alleges being raped by a male trans student in the girls' bathroom, initially failed to report it for fear of being labeled a bigot, but later the incident was reported to the police, Rio Rancho, incident happened in 2021. A male cheerleader allowed to use girls' locker rooms since he was allegedly being bullied by the boys at his school, Yuma, Arizona 2025. Civil rights complaint filed about boys switching genders daily to gain access to female spaces and who leers at and augles girls in New York, June 2025. High school female athlete forced to share a locker room with and compete against a boy from a rival swim team, Hillsboro, Oregon, June 2025. Woman subjected to sexual harassment by a man who's transgender in the Gold's Gym locker room was naked when she encountered him in the locker room, Los Angeles, California, November of 2025. Two girls were assaulted in the girls' bathroom by a boy who's transgender, Edmond, Oklahoma, October 2022. Man who's transgender caught masturbating in Planet Fitness women's locker room, Concord, California, May 2025. Bearded male student who is transgender kicked off the women's rowing team for ogling a teammate's breasts in the locker room, April 2024. Female volleyball players banned from locker room for complaining about having to change with a boy who was transgender, October 2022 in Randolph, Vermont. Boy alleges retaliation after complaining about having to undress in a locker room with a girl who is trans. Other male students complained as well, Westminster, Maryland, November 2025. Michigan parent files Title IX

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complaint over daughters being forced to share a locker room with a male student, Ann Arbor, Michigan, December 2025. Girls complaints about a boy with facial hair who's trans using their locker room and leering was ignored by school leadership. Girls forced to rush to change to accommodate the male student who also continued to use the male locker room, Springfield, Virginia, 2025. Walkout organized to highlight concerns expressed by both male and female students about a male who's transgender being allowed to use a female locker room and bathrooms, Roseburg, Oregon, October 2025. 15-year-old girl files Title IX complaint after high school allows a boy who's transgender to use the girls' locker room. Male student was looking at her while in his underwear making his genitals obvious. After complaining to school staff, the female student was told to wait until the male leaves to change, Pennsylvania, March 2019. A female former college track athlete was mortified having to share a locker room with a man who was transgender and who continued to use a women's locker room even after the NCAA issued its new policy prohibiting such conduct. Her objections and concerns were dismissed by the coaching staff, Henrietta New York, 2025. 16-year-old girl admonished and sent home after hanging signs and protests at men being allowed in the women's locker room at the YMCA, Springfield, Illinois, July 2023. Elementary school girl withdrawn from school when administrators dismissed concerns raised about sexually inappropriate behavior by a male classmate who is transgender, Santa Fe, New Mexico, September 2025. In 1997, a man whose transgender attacked a woman in the bathroom after she asked him why he was in there. He punched her in the face causing her to lose five teeth. He claimed she was the aggressor. A jury did not believe him and he was convicted in 1999. A woman's Planet Fitness membership was revoked for objecting to and warning other female members about a man using the women's locker room, Midland, Michigan. Nationwide, the public overwhelmingly believe that sex is determined at birth and cannot be changed. According to Pew Research, 65% of all adults and 69% of all teenagers believe that sex is determined at birth. 50% of those teenagers who believe sex is determined at birth are Democrats or lean-Democrat. Public support for mixed-sex bathrooms is also not there, as a YouGov poll in 2024 demonstrates. That only 20% of all adults say people should be able to use the bathroom according to their gender identity. Providing single-sex toilets for girls is a commonsense measure to ensure equal access to education and is treated as settled wisdom in recent systematic reviews of the impact on bathroom access to education. Revoking these protections not

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only violates Title IX, but also puts girls and women behind developing countries. 21 states have passed legislation or enacted a policy that protects single-sex spaces in some capacity. In 2025 alone, 11 states either expanded the scope, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Idaho, North Dakota, Alabama, and Mississippi, or passed the first time-- for the first time, Montana, South Dakota, Wyoming, Texas, and West Virginia, legislation protecting single-sex spaces. In 2026, multiple states, in addition to Nebraska, are seeking to do the same. The constitution protects every student's privacy. Federal courts recognize that every student has a right to privacy from the opposite sex in locker rooms and restrooms. The right to bodily privacy means a right not to be seen undressed by the opposite sex. This is both law and common sense. Schools won't send a male custodian in to clean the girls' locker room when it's being used. The custodian's mere presence violates their privacy. The law, the Supreme Court VMI decision and Title IX, respects real physical differences between males and females and requires that the government protect students' privacy in showers, restrooms, and locker rooms. Letting boys into the girls' shower, restroom, or locker room violates the girls' constitutional right to bodily privacy. Letting males into women's privacy facilities based on their belief about their gender deprives women, especially the many who have suffered sex abuse, of essential privacy rights. Schools should never hide information from parents, especially regarding the privacy and safety of their children. Every student deserves to be supported. Every student deserves to be respected and have their privacy respected. There are policies that can promote both of these goals. It is not a zero-sum game. Students deserve private spaces to just shower and undress. Yet, policies that hide information from parents hurt all children. Parents place trust in public schools every day when they drop off their children. And parents who send their children on school-sponsored overnight trips must depend on the school and its employees to protect their children on a higher level. Federal court updates on protecting single-sex spaces. Federal courts in the 9th, 10th, and 11th circuits, including courts of appeal, have already affirmed the constitutionality of state statutes that pro-- that protect single-sex spaces. Sexuality and Gender Alliance v. Critchfield. This was filed in the 9th Circuit in Idaho. In Roe v. Critchfield, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeal denied the plaintiff's request for an injunction that would have prevented Idaho's bill that protects single sex spaces in K-12 schools, which was SB 1100, from being enforced while the substantive case made its way through the

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court. Plaintiff Roe withdrew from the case, leaving the Sexuality and Gender Alliance noted above. This plaintiff then filed a second, narrower request to block the enforcement of SB 1100. But only as to the members of the SGA, only at Boise High School, and only with regard to restrooms. This hail mary invokes the same as applied legal justification that was advanced in the Hecox and BPJ cases heard before SCOTUS January 13, 2026. On August 7, 2025, District Court Judge David C. Nye denied the request. A few key quotes from the judge: There are more general privacy concerns at play. Other personal bodily functions and duties take place in restrooms and implicate privacy interests and the state's desire in protecting such broader concerns applies equally here. Further, as the court and the 9th Circuit noted, all of these concerns are heightened here because of the target age group, K-12 children. Privacy is a worthy goal in and of itself, but even more so with respect to kids who are still developing. Separating restrooms by biological sex has been common for centuries. Those biological differences are deserving of privacy and Idaho's statutes segregation of restrooms based on sex is related to that interest. In the Jones v. Critchfield, the 9th Circuit, Idaho, the plaintiffs in this case sought to block enforcement of the bill that protects single-sex spaces in colleges and universities. On August 23, 2025, District Court Judge David C. Nye denied this request. Few key quotes: The enduring biological differences between men and women are unique and deserving of privacy. It does not matter that the person of the opposite biological sex, whether presenting as transgender or cisgender, is not affirmatively looking or seeking out other people in the restroom. Even having to share a multi-occupancy restroom with a person of the opposite sex can be an invasion of privacy and make a person feel uncomfortable. HB 264 remains in full effect while plaintiffs appeal the injunction denial. In Bridge v. Oklahoma State Department of Education in the 10th circuit: In 2022 plaintiffs, two girls and a boy who is transgender sought to stop enforcement of Oklahoma's bill that protects single-sex spaces in K-12, which was SB 615. District Court Judge Jodi W. Dishman dismissed the plaintiff's lawsuit with prejudice on January 12, 2024. The plaintiffs appealed. The 10th Circuit COA heard argument on November 20, 2025 and a decision is expected in March or April of 2026. When we look at evaluating the safety and privacy of prisons, the rate of criminality needs to be examined. According to the 2011 Dhejne Sweden study, males who are transgender retain the same rates of criminality as other males, including for violent crime. According to 2023 data

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from the Bureau of Prisons, men who identify as transgender commit sex offenses at four times the rate of the general prison population. Nearly 50% of transgender identifying male prisoners are in prison for sex offenses, as compared to 12% for the general prison population. These are updated 2025 figures, still nearly four times the rate of sexual offending in this general population and men and women with over 50% in prison for sex offenses. Women deserve to have their privacy and dignity safeguarded in correctional facilities and their right to privacy and safety should not be dependent on others' beliefs about gender. Correctional facilities have the duty to stop violence and abuse directed at any inmate. Abuse, sexual or otherwise, should never be tolerated. That is why women's spaces must be protected by keeping inmates separated by their sex. In the past few years, the number of trans-identifying males requesting transfer to women's correctional facilities has increased exponentially, resulting in numerous reports of abuse in women's facilities across the country being submitted. Men who assert a female identity are transferring into women's corrections facilities, invading private spaces like showers, restrooms, sleeping quarters, and changing areas. Many women are experiencing harassment and abuse under these policies, and many of these women are already survivors of sexual abuse. In California, the severe effects of gender identity transfer policies on women are clear as day. California passed a law in 2021 requiring inmates to be housed in correction facilities based on their gender identity rather than their sex. After 2 years, the state had nearly 400 transfer requests from incarcerated men requesting transfer to a women's facility. California issued a report detailing the harm the law is causing to incarcerated women. Several women bravely voiced concerns about men transferring into their women's facilities. 27% of the women reported negative experiences with transferred men, including sexual assault and physical assault. 55% of women in prisons expressed strong concerns about being forced to share housing and other privacy facilities with men. These policies are distressing for women who are survivors of sexual assault or abuse and incarcerated. These discussions frequently devolve into hysterical claims that there will be genital inspections at the bathroom or locker room doors. Nonsense. Like any other rule, regulation, or law in any institution, there is a process for what happens if a law or a rule isn't followed. The Nebraska Association for School Boards last year came up with language for policies to help schools establish how violations would be handled. Clear policies are key to ensuring these are followed. We

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don't have law enforcement following us around to monitor any other aspect of our lives. It's ridiculous to think that people will not follow these requirements. There are also claims that men identifying as women are harassed in male spaces. If that is true, it needs to be addressed. But you do not correct a wrong by wronging others.

Resolving male-on-male violence cannot be done by creating the opportunity for male-on-female violence. LB370 [SIC] addresses a foundational ethical obligation of government, the protection of bodily privacy and safety in shared public spaces. Sex-based restrooms, locker rooms, and changing facilities exist not to exclude, but to safeguard privacy, reduce risk, and maintain public trust in communal environments. From a bioethics perspective, this bill aligns with the principles of nonmaleficence and justice. Public policy should avoid foreseeable harm and ensure that protections are equitably applied, especially for women and girls who disproportionately bear the burden of privacy violations and sexual exploitation. The removal of sex-based distinctions in intimate spaces creates conditions where boundaries become unclear and enforcement becomes nearly impossible. LB730 provides clear, objective standards that allow schools, government buildings, and public institutions to operate consistently and safely. Ethical governance depends on clarity. When policies rely on subjective self-identification in sex-segregated spaces, institutions are left without workable safeguards, and the public is left without recourse when harm occurs. This is not an abstract concern. Public facilities are used by children, elderly individuals, people with disabilities, and survivors of trauma. Ethical public policy must account for the most vulnerable, not just the most vocal. Protecting sex-based spaces preserves dignity for everyone by ensuring predictable, enforceable boundaries. Importantly, LB730 does not prevent the accommodation of individuals with special needs. Private or single-user facilities remain appropriate and ethical solutions that respect both individual dignity and collective safety without eliminating sex-based protections altogether. LB730 reflects a commitment to public safety, human dignity, and responsible governance. It affirms that the state has a legitimate role in setting reasonable boundaries in shared spaces where privacy and physical vulnerability are at stake. I urge you to vote yes on LB730. Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Thank you, Senator Kauth. Check to see if there are any questions from the committee. Senator Lonowski.

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**LONOWSKI:** Thank you, Chair Sanders. Thank you for, for the, the explanation there, Senator Kauth. I appreciate that. So it seems mostly like the violations you, you talked about are men, I guess, trans women invading women's spaces. Is it the same going the other way or is the percentage way lower? Do we know?

**KAUTH:** The percentage is way lower, you don't see a lot of women who believe they are men entering male bathrooms, but, again, the, the privacy for men is just as important, it's not as much of a safety risk, but the privacy issues cannot be ignored.

**LONOWSKI:** OK. Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Senator Andersen.

**ANDERSEN:** Thank you, Chairwoman. Thank you, Senator Kauth, for being here. And I appreciate you for your courage to bring this bill back. I wish we could have completed the work last session but, unfortunately, that's not the case. And I know, I know that you've got a lot of grief and your office got a lot of grief for bringing this, so I appreciate your, your courage in doing so. It seems very, very common sense to me, and it seems like most people know there's only two sexes, boy and girl, and they should be separate in, in single-sex spaces. Do you have an opinion as to why there's so much pushback from the people that don't want-- that want to have boys that be going to girls' bathrooms and locker rooms? Any idea why they push back on this so much? It seems really common sense to me.

**KAUTH:** And it is very common sense. I think that there is a level of empathy that has become toxic. When you're sympathetic to someone's distress, you want to make it better, and I think inflicting distress on other people is not the right way to go about it.

**ANDERSEN:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Any other questions from the committee? See none, thank you very much. And I think you have a list of invited testifiers.

**KAUTH:** I do.

**SANDERS:** So we'll start with Greg Brown. And you'll stay for closing, Senator Kauth?

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**KAUTH:** Oh, yes, I'm sorry.

**SANDERS:** Thank you. Good afternoon. Welcome.

**GREG BROWN:** Good afternoon. Thank you. Good afternoon, Chair, members of the committee. I am Dr. Greg Brown, G-r-e-g B-r-o-w-n. I'm from Kearney, Nebraska. I'm a Professor of Exercise Science at the University of Nebraska at Kearney with a primary emphasis in Exercise Physiology. My comments today represent my own opinions and are not a statement on behalf of the university. My education and research have focused on how the biological differences between human males, that's boys and men, and human females, girls and women, affect health and athletic performance. Biological sex affects every system of the human body and results in sex-specific needs that are directly relevant to LB730. I just want to briefly explain why, from a biological, hygienic, and safety standpoint, sex-segregated restrooms and changing facilities are not merely a matter of tradition but of real measurable need. First, girls and women have distinct hygiene requirements that males do not share. Due to their anatomy and physiology, girls and women manage menstruation, pregnancy-related issues, postpartum needs, and higher rates of urinary-tract infections and incontinence across the lifespan. These factors increase both the frequency and duration of restroom use and often require privacy, space, and resources beyond what the typical male facilities were designed to provide. Empirical research on sanitation design consistently shows that women and girls use restroom facilities more often and for longer time for these biological reasons. Adequate private space for managing sanitation needs and menstrual hygiene is essential for the health and dignity of girls and women. No male, regardless of gender identity, will ever experience the same restroom hygiene needs as girls and women. These realities are rooted in anatomy and physiology and cannot be changed through social policy. Common sense and universal human experience tells us that restrooms and locker rooms are spaces where individuals may be partially clothed or unclothed in close proximity to others. This inherently reduces privacy and increases discomfort, particularly for adolescents undergoing puberty. When mixed-sex restrooms are forced upon girls, they avoid using the facilities, resulting in dehydration, urinary-tract infections, constipation, and pelvic floor-dysfunction. Ensuring appropriate privacy protections in these spaces, is therefore a public health concern as well as a matter of dignity. Furthermore, the Women's Rights Network in England and Wales indicates that 88% of sexual assault, rape, and voyeurism incidents in

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leisure centers occurred in mixed-sex changing areas. 73% of the victims were female, 87% of the perpetrators were male. Notably, the report documents a growing incidence of cell-phone-based voyeurism with girls as the primary targets. The report describes mixed-sex changing facilities as a magnet for sexual predators and highlights that women and girls are uniquely vulnerable in shared changing spaces. In summary, female anatomy, physiology, and hygiene needs are distinct from males. Restrooms and locker rooms may-- must reflect that reality to protect the privacy, dignity, health, and safety of females. Policies that enforce sex-segregated facilities are essential and consistent with scientific evidence and the lived experience of women and girls. Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Thank you. Right there on the 3-minute timer. I appreciate it, Dr. Brown. Are there any questions for Dr. Brown? Senator Lonowski.

**LONOWSKI:** Thank you, Chair Sanders. Thank you, Dr. Brown, I appreciate your testimony. How long have you been a professor?

**GREG BROWN:** Senator Lonowski, thank you for the question. I've been a professor at the University of Nebraska at Kearney since 2004, and 2 years prior to that, I was at Georgia Southern University. So we're looking at 24 years as a professor now.

**LONOWSKI:** OK. In that time, have you noticed an increase in the number of people that, that say they're trans?

**GREG BROWN:** Yes, there's an increase of the number of individuals identifying as transgender over that time period. Yes.

**LONOWSKI:** Can you-- do you have any explanation for that or is there any logical reasoning like--

**GREG BROWN:** So there's a, a number of theories on it. Probably the most likely theory that seems appropriate is, it is a social contagion in which combination of social media and increased visibility of transgender individuals, as well as transgender individuals at schools and other places being given special privileges. And then individuals identify as transgender to obtain those special privileges or to fit in with a peer group or to otherwise fit into the fad is, in essence, what's happening. As far as-- one of the big challenges with transgender is there is no biological explanation for someone to be

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transgender. You cannot do any type of biological test to identify someone is transgender. You can't do a blood test. You can't do a cheek swab. You can't do a brain scan, nothing like that. So it's all up to the person to say they are transgender. And so that's-- it's a social contagion, really is what's going on.

**LONOWSKI:** OK. So within, like, the AMA, the American Medical Association, is this described, like, as a-- like a, a mental disorder or is it a-- how do they describe it?

**GREG BROWN:** Thank you, Senator, that's a good question. And it's, it's very interesting, because this is primarily dealt with through the American Psychiatric Association and the American Psychology Association. It used to be identified as a separate mental disorder. And now, and I wish I could remember when it was, they revised the guidelines. I want to say it was DSM-5. And they identified it as, in essence, a subset of depression. However, if you look at the information that has come out in legal briefs in the Skrmetti case in the Supreme Court, and some other cases, there seems to have been a change in the designation not really based on evidence, but just based on, in essence, lobbying to get it so that it was less stigmatized.

**LONOWSKI:** OK. Thank you.

**GREG BROWN:** You're welcome. Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Senator Meyer.

**F. MEYER:** So, oftentimes, it depends on how people want to use the term, but settled science sometimes gets overworked in our society to the benefit of feelings or something that also has come forward in certain discussions. So is this a, is this a situation where you would say this is settled science?

**GREG BROWN:** Thank you, Senator. That's a great question. I would say that it is settled science that human beings are either male or female. There is no third sex. There's no third option. From a reproductive standpoint, you have to have a sperm unite with an egg. There's not a "speg." There's not something in between. So from the biological standpoint that our bodies are dimorphic, that you are either made to produce sperm or to produce ova, that is settled, that there are two sexes. Transgender is not settled because of the incidence of the-- you can see this in the huge increases in the

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number of people identifying as transgender with no good explanation. That makes the identification of someone's transgender not settled. It's unclear why or how often. There are a lot of times individuals who identify as transgender have underlying mental health conditions that, then, they think that transgender is the solution to their problem when it really isn't. And so, yeah, the transgender issue is a challenging thing and the reason it's-- again, right now, biologically there is no definition of it. There is no way to test for it. So that is pretty settled and I don't see how they're going to find another way to unsettle it. How does that sound?

**F. MEYER:** So, so, in, in your opinion, you would phrase some of this discussion as, as obviously not physical, so it's a mental or emotional situation and not physical because that's settled science.

**GREG BROWN:** Yes, I would characterize it that way. The physical is settled science. The emotional or mental aspects of transgender are not settled.

**F. MEYER:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Any other questions? Senator Lonowski.

**LONOWSKI:** Thank you. I have one follow-up based on that conversation. Thanks, Chair Sanders. So if there isn't this third, who, who designates whether a young man or a young woman is trans? Is that a, a medical doctor or a psychologist or a health practitioner?

**GREG BROWN:** Thank you, Senator, and that's a very interesting question. It should be under medical care that a person is identified and diagnosed as transgender, which would typically, the way it is written, it should be both an endocrinologist, general practitioner, mental health counselor, a whole team that would come together to identify this. The unfortunate thing we've seen is individuals going to their health care provider and saying, I am transgender, and the health care provider going along with the diagnosis that the person made of themselves. Part of this is that we see in some states where the law, in essence, says that the health care provider must affirm their transgender identity. You see this in the laws that ban conversion therapy, they will call it, which would really be the mental health care practitioner talking through this individual. Why do they identify as transgender? What brought them to that decision? But

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there's laws that prevent them from being able to do that. And there's also a lot of pressure to just affirm the identity. Other challenges we have is instances where kids at school will identify as transgender to a school counselor or a teacher, and the teacher or the school counselor, without appropriate medical training, they socially transition the kid, which is a medical intervention. And so then the child is thought to be transgender, acts transgender, but has not had any type of real diagnosis.

**LONOWSKI:** OK. Thank you.

**GREG BROWN:** You're welcome. Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Are there any other questions? Senator Andersen.

**ANDERSEN:** Thank you, Chairwoman. And thank you, Dr. Brown, for being here. I'm a, a father of, of two and one of my primary jobs is protecting my sons. And in your testimony, you talk about the, the, the mixed restrooms, the women, the females refuse to use the facilities, resulting in dehydration, urinary-tract infections, constipation, pelvic dysfunction. And it seems like from the emotional perspective that, that brings on or that is the catalyst for discomfort, at best, but fear and anxiety would seem like at worst. Why would somebody actually do that? Why would you intentionally put somebody in a position to where you have physiological problems and emotional problems that result from it? Any, any ideas on that?

**GREG BROWN:** Thank you for that question, Senator. It is much like what Senator Kauth said, where this seems to be empathy that has moved to the point of toxicity, where if a school district, as she has mentioned, designates a restroom that boys or girls can enter, the girls will avoid going there. They'll dehydrate themselves so they don't have to urinate, or they hold urine or feces so long that it causes other problems. They complain to school counselors or school personnel who then say, well, educate yourself, and be more compassionate. And, in essence, what has happened in these cases is the feelings, the mental health affirmation for the transgender individual has been prioritized over the mental and physical health of girls and women, which is not a good numbers game, right? Just a little over 50% of the population is female. Senator, UCLA, I can't remember the name of it, I apologize, that studies this, identifies about 0.3-0.6% of Americans have traditionally been transgender, so

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someone has prioritized that small percentage over a much larger percentage. Did that answer your question?

**ANDERSEN:** Yes, thank you.

**GREG BROWN:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Any other questions from the committee? See none, thank you so much for your testimony.

**GREG BROWN:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** We next have Leah Becker. Good afternoon. Welcome.

**LEAH BECKER:** Hello. Thank you. Good afternoon, Madam Chair and members of the committee. My name is Leah Becker, L-e-a-h B-e-c-k-e-r. I'm from Kearney and I'll be representing myself and my own ideas and opinions. I agree with LB730 and I beg you to pass this bill because I believe that it will help protect the women of Nebraska from being sexually assaulted in public bathrooms or in school locker rooms. If our state does not define an individual sex as male or female within this bill, it delivers sexual predators the opportunity to follow women into public restrooms and attack them. A sexual predator could follow me, your mother, your sister, or your daughter into the bathroom and sexually attack them. Sexual assault and rape happen, and it's not something a person can just get over. When you're sexually assaulted or raped, you are used and regarded as an object. In my experience, it destroyed my self-worth. I was only 15 when I was sexually assaulted by a classmate who I considered a friend. That trauma sent my life into a spiral of drugs and alcohol. I battled anxiety, depression, as well as anxiety and panic attacks often. I was about to end my own life within the following years, and I would have if it wasn't for God. I think 2 Corinthians 5:17 says it best: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. I'm not the same girl who was assaulted almost 7 years ago. God has given me love and a new life with this opportunity to advocate, advocate for the women of Nebraska. So, again, I beg you to pass this bill. Please, please help protect the women of Nebraska from being sexually assaulted. Thank you for your time.

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**SANDERS:** Thank you for your testimony. Let's check to see if there's any questions from the committee. See none, thank you for taking the time out today.

**LEAH BECKER:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Thank you. Next, we'll have Elizabeth Nunnally?

**ELIZABETH NUNNALLY:** Nunnally, yeah.

**SANDERS:** Please come forward. Good afternoon. Welcome.

**ELIZABETH NUNNALLY:** Good afternoon, Chairwoman Sanders and members of the committee. My name is Elizabeth Nunnally, E-l-i-z-a-b-e-t-h N-u-n-n-a-l-l-y, and I'm here testifying in support of LB730 on behalf of Nebraska Family Alliance and the thousands of families we represent who believe women and girls in Nebraska deserve to feel safe while using private spaces. LB730 sets clear, commonsense standards for public schools, colleges, and state facilities by designating restrooms and locker rooms according to biological sex with reasonable accommodations. Locker rooms and restrooms are private spaces that girls should not be forced to share with men. One of the responsibilities of schools is to provide a safe environment where children can learn and thrive, and LB730 ensures that is the case for students in Nebraska. Protecting sex-specific spaces is important for safety reasons. But it's also about standing up for truth and preserving opportunities for the next generation of Nebraska women. Our laws and policies should recognize and respect that males and females are biologically different. Respecting these biological differences is essential to ensuring the privacy, dignity, and safety of both sexes. LB730 is grounded in biological reality and takes a commonsense approach to protect the privacy of students and citizens in restrooms and locker rooms. It is unfair and dangerous to force women and girls to share bathrooms and locker rooms with males. Nebraskans have been waiting for our lawmakers to take this step and uphold the privacy and safety of women and girls. A recent survey that we commissioned in a local legislative district in Omaha found that 69% of registered voters support keeping men out of girls' bathrooms and locker rooms, including nearly 50% of Democrats and 69% percent of Independents. Nebraskans want reasonable and proactive steps to be taken to address growing concerns from parents and athletes about safety and the protection of private spaces. LB730 does just that. We

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applaud Senator Kauth for introducing this bill and urge the committee to stand with women by, by advancing LB730. Thank you for your time and consideration.

**SANDERS:** Thank you, Ms. Nunnally, for your testimony. Let's see if there's any questions from the committee. See none, thank you for coming out.

**ELIZABETH NUNNALLY:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Appreciate it. We have on the list is Allison Becker [SIC] next. Good afternoon. Welcome.

**ALLISON DAVIS:** Hello, thank you. Good afternoon, members of the committee. My name is Allison Davis, A-l-l-i-s-o-n D-a-v-i-s. I'm a student at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, majoring in both Health Science and Exercise Science. The views I'm expressing today are strictly my own. I participated in athletics for most of my life. As a result, I'm very familiar with shared spaces, such as locker rooms and restrooms. For most women and girls, these environments can already be uncomfortable, as they are spaces where individuals are exposed and vulnerable. Inviting biological males into female locker rooms and restrooms raises major concerns regarding privacy and safety. Allowing biological men this access will increase the risk of sexual harassment and assault against women. I'm assuming most of you have children or have friends with children. Now imagine your daughter or friend's daughter being followed into a private space by a biological male claiming to be a woman. You'll quickly realize the seriousness of the situation when it's someone you love. Genesis 1:27 states: So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female, he created them. Even though some individuals may try to identify differently than the sex God created them, these biological differences are very relevant in spaces involving our privacy. I fully support LB730 and keeping women's spaces solely for biological women and men's spaces for biological men. It's mind-baffling that this topic is one worthy of being debated. Keeping men and women separated, who are very obviously physically different, is common sense. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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**SANDERS:** Thank you for your testimony. Check to see if there's any questions from the committee. Senator Lonowski.

**LONOWSKI:** Thank you, Senator Sanders. Thank you for your testimony, Allison. What year are you at UNK?

**ALLISON DAVIS:** I am a junior.

**LONOWSKI:** OK. Have, have you ever gone into a bathroom and either encountered a trans person or they come in when you're in there?

**ALLISON DAVIS:** Not on campus, but out and about, yes.

**LONOWSKI:** What's your reaction? How did you handle it?

**ALLISON DAVIS:** I'm a little taken aback by it. I mean, we're called to show love to everybody, so I don't, like, act out on it. But it's definitely very uncomfortable, so.

**LONOWSKI:** OK. OK, thank you for your testimony.

**ALLISON DAVIS:** Yes. Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Senator Meyer. Oh, hold on there.

**F. MEYER:** Oh, one more question, and I'll, I'll be brief. And thank you for being here today. So you're a junior in college, so you're probably 21.

**ALLISON DAVIS:** Hm-hmm.

**F. MEYER:** So as you remember back as you were growing up, maybe from when you were in junior high, or something, till today, how has your mental capacity changed in order to be able to accept even this thought of a male being in your bathroom? Has it changed? I mean, I can only imagine. I have three sons, so I, I, I know nothing about that really. But if-- from when you were, like I said, junior high until junior in college, almost being out on your own, have, have you noticed a, a difference in your mental, mental mental capacity to handle issues like that?

**ALLISON DAVIS:** Yeah, I mean, definitely when I was younger, like, I mean, it was totally abnormal to see a guy in a girl's space and, I

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mean, it's still crazy to think about now. I can definitely handle it, but it's, yeah, it's still just crazy. I don't understand it, so.

**F. MEYER:** Thank you.

**ALLISON DAVIS:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Any other questions? See none, thank you for your testimony.

**ALLISON DAVIS:** Thank you.

**ALLISON DAVIS:** Next on our invite list, Marion Miner. Good afternoon. Welcome.

**MARION MINER:** Good afternoon. Excuse me. Thank you. My name is Marion Minor, M-a-r-i-o-n M-i-n-e-r. I'm Associate Director of Pro-Life and Family Policy for the Nebraska Catholic Conference, which advocates for the public policy interests of the Catholic Church and advances the gospel of life through engaging, educating, and empowering public officials, Catholic laity, and the general public. The Conference supports LB730. Sex is a bodily material reality, and women and girls are different from men and boys. The law should respect those differences and, in some important circumstances, reserve certain spaces for women and girls or for men and boys only. LB730 would require that group bathrooms and locker rooms be reserved for the exclusive use of either males or females. These are spaces set aside for showering, removing, and changing clothes, and other activity which carries with it a reasonable expectation of one's unclothed body being shielded from the opposite sex. As a matter of law, similar policies have been found constitutionally sound by numerous courts when challenged on both equal protection and Title IX grounds, and we have every reason to believe this trend will continue, including up to and including at the U.S. Supreme Court. This is perhaps not an issue any legislator thought he or she would have to confront even 12 or 15 years ago. Reservation of these spaces for single-sex use has long been universally observed. Transgressions against that norm have been correctly understood as dangerous and invasive. In our time, however, some people do believe they are entitled to force, force others to treat them as members of the opposite sex, not just request, but force them to do so, including admission to spaces set aside for privacy. And absent legal requirements, and I think this is important, absent legal requirements, local public authorities are often afraid to do

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anything to stop this. Even when accommodation of these demands by men claiming to be women, leads not only to embarrassment and humiliation, but in some cases has even facilitated sexual violence. It is not unreasonable to believe that we should be proactive and not reactive with respect to these concerns and dangers. Women and girls as well as men and boys deserve to have reasonable expectations of bodily privacy and bodily safety respected by society. And for those reasons we respectfully urge you to advance LB730 to General File. Thank you for your time.

**SANDERS:** Thank you for your testimony. See if there are any questions from the committee. Senator Lonowski.

**LONOWSKI:** Thank you, Senator Sanders. Thank you for being here, and thank you for your testimony. So I, I was a public school teacher for 35 years, and, and so we had to deal with some of these issues because we do want to educate everyone. We want to show everyone that we're inviting and accepting, and we have-- we owe it to them to, to educate them. What, what do you think are some of the answers to this? Like, what are some solutions to, to this 0.5% or one of a 200, I guess, what is a solution to, to help them get through whatever they're going through or to help them with bathroom situations?

**MARION MINER:** Yeah, I, I don't think, I don't think there's a really neat, tidy, easy answer to that question, because these, these are people who, they're real people, they have-- they're going through real pain. They're going through real confusion. And that-- you know, that, that would be certainly the way that, that we look at it in terms of-- you know, there's a difference between sort of not having a disconnect between your bodily sex and the way sort of that, that traditional gender norms are lived out in the world, right? There, there's-- those things don't always super neatly line up in an individual person or in the society that you're in. However, you've gone across a, a very bright line with some pretty drastic consequences, I think, when you start denying the reality of the sex itself. Right? When you start denying the reality of the body, the demands that the body makes on a person, the demands that-- the kind of respect that that commands not only from yourself, but from other people what you can legitimately expect of people based on the, the demands of the body and the reality of the body. When these things start to get mixed up, you end up with a lot of problems that are very difficult to unwind. But one thing that is certainly the case that I

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would say is that for people who believe they are a member of the opposite sex or who identify as transgender, they are not people who deserve ridicule. They are not people who deserve to be treated as something less than others, as someone less than others. And that's the first step, certainly, is to recognize the dignity of those people, to treat them as the human beings that they are with respect and with patience. But when you start denying, you know, the demands that are made by the realities of, of the sexed body, you run into problems here with privacy and with safety, and I think that's what the bill is about.

**LONOWSKI:** OK. So just a little background before I ask this next question. I coached wrestling for 35 years. My last 3 years was girls' wrestling. The first year of that, and we had to practice in the mornings because we didn't have enough wrestling mat space, I had a young lady that after practice in the morning she was not showering. So some other girls complained. So I talked to her. She had a fear of being in the locker room with anyone because it was the first time she ever had to, had to confront the situation. Bodies are changing in ninth grade.

**MARION MINER:** There are plenty of boys that go through that, too. Yeah.

**LONOWSKI:** I was not equipped to be the counselor, I guess. I did find a situation, but-- so I guess my, my-- in short, my question is to you, does the Nebraska Catholic Alliance-- or, or Conference, do you guys offer counseling to help young people through this?

**MARION MINER:** Well, I mean, there are certainly, there are certainly many counseling organizations out there that help people with this, along with all kinds of other things. The Catholic Conference is, is, specifically, public-policy focused.

**LONOWSKI:** Sure. OK.

**MARION MINER:** There are certainly many Catholic and other Christian counselors out there that do help people who come to them with these kinds of questions.

**LONOWSKI:** OK. Yeah, I, I guess you collectively would have been a better question. Thank you.

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**MARION MINER:** Sure. Yeah. You're welcome.

**LONOWSKI:** Appreciate it.

**SANDERS:** Any other questions for Mr. Miner? See none, thank you very much for your testimony.

**MARION MINER:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** On our invitation list, next is Erin Friday. Good afternoon. Welcome.

**ERIN FRIDAY:** Good afternoon. Erin Friday, E-r-i-n F-r-i-d-a-y, attorney and President of Our Duty in support. The National Education Association acknowledges sexual assaults commonly occur in school bathrooms and locker rooms. At a West Virginia high school, BPJ, a male claiming to have his puberty blocked and using estrogen, threatened Adelaide Cross [PHONETIC] and other females with rape, stating, I'm going to stick my D word in your P word and A word. To protect herself, Adelaide quit sports, avoided bathrooms. At Edmonton Memorial High School in Oklahoma, a trans-identifying male assaulted a 15-year-old female in the bathroom, punching her in the face, then punching the intervening females. In California, a trans-identifying male was found pleasuring himself in a Planet Fitness bathroom stall, claiming his trans identity protected his behavior. The young female witness now fears public bathrooms. Tish Hyman [PHONETIC] encountered four different males in her gym locker room. She was naked in those four encounters. One of the trans males, Alexis Black [PHONETIC], aka Kyle Friedman [PHONETIC], is a convicted abuser having savagely beaten his ex-wife. These males ignored available gender-neutral locker rooms, choosing instead to terrorize females. At Martin Luther King High School in California, a male claiming to be a female got into altercations with girls in the bathroom and routinely showed his penis. A 12-year-old girl was raped in New Mexico Middle School by a male student. The bathroom policy enabled his crime. A gender-confused female in Virginia was instructed by her school to use the male bathroom, where she was sexually assaulted. She reported it, but the school questioned her veracity. Fearing for her parents, she ran away. She was then brutally sex trafficked. Elizabeth Kenney [PHONETIC] routinely encounters a naked male in her locker room, and this man has threatened a bare-breasted elderly Asian woman when she asked him to just cover up his genitals. Laws allowing males in female spaces

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prevent Muslim women from fully participating in society. A Muslim woman showering with her autistic daughter at a YMCA saw a naked man and her daughter began wailing and screaming. Nebraska risks losing \$648 million in federal funding if it continues to permit males in female spaces in its educational institutions. Thank you. I'm available for questions.

**SANDERS:** Thank you very much for your testimony. Checking to see if there's any questions from the committee. See none, thank you very much for your testimony.

**ERIN FRIDAY:** Thanks.

**SANDERS:** Next, we have Kathy Wilmot. Good afternoon. Welcome.

**KATHY WILMOT:** Good afternoon, and I thank you all for this opportunity to speak out on LB730 and to encourage you to support this and pass it. Over my careers that I've gone through--

**SANDERS:** Kathy, can I get you to say and spell--

**KATHY WILMOT:** Oh, yes, I would. K-a-t-h-y W-i-l-m-o-t.

**SANDERS:** Thank you.

**KATHY WILMOT:** Thank you. During my working career, I worked for over 9 years with mentally handicapped individuals, and I worked with some people that, through the years, they had taken cameras in to get pictures of the clients and things that were being gang showered, etcetera. And it was under the time of President Kennedy, and he had worked hard to make sure that that didn't happen anymore and that mentally handicapped people were treated with dignity, that they could be safe. They didn't have to go through the gang showers. Their privacy was required to be protected. Then I spent over 20 years working in a minimum, medium prison. Well, guess what, even inmates want privacy when they are toileting or showering. And that's something that we had to make sure happened as well because they deserve respect and dignity also. So how is it, I guess I wonder, that we find ourselves today in a position where people in all other environments can have their privacy protected, their safety protected, but then now we're talking about our kids in school. We have-- I have grandchildren, I have a great grandchild. And I think someone asks, you know, how did we get to this point? I think, man alive, if we let

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this point continue, where in the world are we going to find ourselves by the time the grandkids and the great grandchildren grow up? I can't begin to imagine. And I do think when you think of the trauma, and I have to go back when I went to school, high school, which I know it was a long time ago, but, you know, in the locker rooms and things, we didn't have this kind of a question. And I was still an individual that was very shy, very uncomfortable being around the other people in the shower room. So-- and just yesterday, I did get a phone call related to this bill from a university student who reported that on, in that particular residence, there is-- there are neutral-gender, evidently, facilities and they are a little concerned about that. I don't know that that's true, I plan to find out because they're wanting to know what can I do? And we just-- to require individuals to be provided with sex-segregated bathrooms, that's, that's not wrong. That's something that we should do. It doesn't [INAUDIBLE] to constitute sex discrimination, that's just respecting the privacy and the safety of individuals. And so I would ask you to continue to protect our youth. I mean, they are, we say all the time, they're the future of our state. You're investing in them in so many ways. Would you please invest in their safety and their privacy as well? Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Thank you, Ms. Wilmot, for your testimony. Let me check to see if there are any questions for you from the committee. Senator Lonowski.

**LONOWSKI:** Thank you, Senator Sanders. Thank you, Mrs. Wilmot, for being here.

**KATHY WILMOT:** Yes.

**LONOWSKI:** Being familiar with all the different areas that you've worked, and specifically, are colleges seeing this at a higher level as far as bathrooms being used by trans people? I mean, is it, is it more of an issue there, less of an issue, or is it since everyone kind of goes their own way, do we not really know what the issues are?

**KATHY WILMOT:** I don't think we really know, and I wouldn't say particularly more in colleges anyway, just because this is something that's hitting your public schools as well, you know,--

**LONOWSKI:** Sure.

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**KATHY WILMOT:** --in, in the high schools, junior highs, etcetera. I don't know about the elementaries, but I am assuming-- in fact, we did have a board member that had talked to us, a board member with a public school here in Nebraska that evidently they were given the message that they had to provide these kinds of restrooms or else, or else provide a third restroom, so to speak. And I just know that particular individual said, you know what, this is ridiculous. And it's just something that they didn't want to get involved in. And I guess they have chosen not to at their school. But I don't think there's particularly an increase, but I do think there is sometimes a real curiosity or, as they mentioned earlier, socially, this is something that's happening. And maybe I'm missing out on something, or maybe there's something wrong with me if I don't fit into this new trend, and I, and I think sometimes that's a little bit of what might be going on.

**LONOWSKI:** OK. Thank you. And one thing I think, I think of a lot is all of our schools near Holdrege and Axtell and Kennesaw and all these small towns, it's K-6 pretty much in the same bathroom, or at least 1st through 6th in the same bathroom, 7 and 12 in one building using the same. So I, I, I think of the possibility of a 7th or 8th grader walking in and an 11th or 12th grader, this trans and just-- nothing's going to probably happen, but we don't know that and the, and the trauma, I think, could be everlasting.

**KATHY WILMOT:** Yeah, I definitely believe that. There's people, and we know that, that have struggled. I mean, talk to counselors and individuals. And they have individuals that for 20, 30 years, when something traumatic has happened to them, it, it takes that long, perhaps, if they ever really, truly resolve that. And those types of encounters would be something or could be something that would affect that individual, their ability to go ahead and have good relationships, maybe marital relationships, perhaps even a family at some point in time.

**LONOWSKI:** Thank you.

**KATHY WILMOT:** Yeah.

**SANDERS:** Are there any other questions? See none, thank you for, for your testimony. Next, we have Wes Wilmot.

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**WES WILMOT:** Good afternoon, Senators. Thank you for your time here.

**SANDERS:** Good afternoon. Welcome.

**WES WILMOT:** My name is Wes Wilmot, W-e-s W-i-l-m-o-t. I'm from Beaver City, Nebraska, District 38. And I am here to speak in the pros for this bill that we're talking about today. We've heard a lot of numbers, so you don't need any more numbers. To me, the first thing is, what a hypocrisy that this is. I've been told all my life that, you know, evolution is a fact. It's a proven sound science fact and that creation or the fact that God even existed is not. So it's, you know, you're a fool. If you believe in God you're a fool. Well, now, today they're telling us well we've got sound science that says there's boys and girls but, yet, we've all got to just go on this belief. Obviously, there's no set test to prove this assumption because look at all the failures, all the rapes, all the assaults and everything. So there isn't a clear cut way to determine if somebody really is or not. So we're just supposed to go with the feelings and beliefs, which they told me I was crazy for doing when I wanted to be a Christian. So it's, you know, just hypocrisy, totally. And I guess my next one was the proof. There is none, apparently, as we've heard, there's no third sex. There's no test for it. It's been moved around in different psychological venues and things, but nothing really working because, obviously, we keep having all these problems with it. And, thirdly, we talked quite a bit about the safety issue, had a lot of cases that the senator brought, and also from back here. But, to me, I think we need to look at another set of, of numbers because over the years we have looked so much about pornography. We know all kinds of data about the problems with pornography. And since we don't really have a way to verify if this sexual orientation thing of a person is true or not, then you may well have a 16-year-old, physically intact male being forced into-- you know, a group of naked girls being forced to shower with this man that is lying about his identity. And if that's not pornography, I don't know what is. And if we don't do something about it, it's state-sponsored pornography. So we've got to do something about this, it's-- like I said, it's, it's hypocrisy and it's, you know, it's, it's, it's not what we need for our children. Thank you.

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**SANDERS:** Thank you for your testimony. We'll see from the committee if there are any questions. I see none, thank you for your testimony. We now have on the invite list Justin Jacobsen.

**JUSTIN JACOBSEN:** Good afternoon, Senators.

**SANDERS:** Good afternoon. Welcome.

**JUSTIN JACOBSEN:** My name is Justin Jacobsen. It's J-u-s-t-i-n J--a-c-o-b-s-e-n. I'm for LB730. Roughly 2 years ago, my daughter, Bria [PHONETIC], came to me after school asking if she could talk to me about something, then began expressing how uncomfortable and strange she felt having a boy pretending to be a girl in a restroom with her. I can't tell you the shock, awe, and anger that I felt having been told this when a year before I sat in front of an LPS school board and got lied to. And told this was happening in other places, but not in Nebraska. I listened to my daughter, tried to keep how I felt out of it, and told her if she wanted to I would do everything I could to address this situation and get it changed. But once I started, I wouldn't stop. She said please, Dad, because I do not feel right sharing the bathroom with a boy, nor should she or any other woman. I then started by reaching out to the principal of LSE High School with multiple phone calls and emails. He told me he understood how I felt because he has daughters also, but it was out of his hands, here's who I needed to talk to. Then, I went to his superintendent and was told the same thing by that person and multiple other people. I worked my way all the way up to the LPS over everyone superintendent. After months of this, I still got nowhere. There were numerous emails where I explained my frustrations of this circumstance, fear of our daughter's safety and all daughters out there, how uncomfortable she was with a biological boy being in the bathroom and was told by all of them she could use another bathroom if she felt uncomfortable being in her own restroom, not the biological male should use the other facility that they had at the time. It's immoral, wrong, and evil we are telling our daughters this and allowing it in schools first and foremost, or anywhere for that fact. It is immoral, wrong, and evil we are not getting people the help they desperately need and encouraging mental illness, lies, and delusions. No woman, young or old, should have to share their restroom or locker room with another man. If you don't agree with me, I would encourage you to tell me how you would feel if your wife or daughter or yourself, if you are a woman, would mind if I or another man was

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standing in the restroom with you when you went. Regardless of what the other person feels, I was never once rude to any of these authority figures or the younger person struggling with this mental delusion, but it struck me to the core as a father and a man, no parent or child should have to go through this. No father should have to tell his daughter, why speaking to other adults, that I could multiple times in various emails and phone calls saying that a biological woman needed to use another restroom facility if she didn't feel comfortable or another locker room where you are changing. No woman already battling all the insecurities that they go through on a day-to-day basis should have add to-- this to their list of struggles. Woe to anyone letting this atrocity go on. Woe to anyone who would not be bothered if this was their grandmother, mother, wife, sister, daughter, grandchild, or whatever else. We have an obligation from God and to ourselves to protect women and should not have to be discussing this if we are doing what we are already supposed to be doing in the first place. Get this stopped and protect our younger daughters and sisters from this bullying tactic.

**SANDERS:** Perfect timing. Thank you very much for your testimony.

**JUSTIN JACOBSEN:** Yes, ma'am.

**SANDERS:** Let's check to see if there's any questions for you from the committee. Senator Meyer.

**F. MEYER:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I applaud you for being here. That is not easy. I didn't have any daughters, but I have granddaughters. And if that happened to them, I would feel the same way. The only way to look at this issue is from that narrow perspective. What if it were your granddaughter? Thank you, and I apologize for getting emotional.

**JUSTIN JACOBSEN:** You're fine, sir.

**F. MEYER:** I think it's very emotional. Thank you.

**JUSTIN JACOBSEN:** Yes, sir.

**SANDERS:** Are there any other questions from the committee? See none, thank you very much for your testimony.

**JUSTIN JACOBSEN:** Thank you, ma'am.

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**SANDERS:** Next on our invitation list is Colin Wright. Good afternoon. Welcome.

**COLIN WRIGHT:** Thank you so much, Chairman, members of the committee. Thanks for the opportunity to testify. My name is Colin Wright. That's C-o-l-i-n W-r-i-g-h-t. I'm an evolutionary biologist, and I'm an expert in the biology of sex. I'm here to support LB730 because it is scientifically accurate, legally clear, and necessary to protect privacy and safety in sex-segregated spaces. In biology, sex is not a feeling, it's not an identity, and it is not a spectrum. It's a fundamental binary reproductive classification that exists across nearly all sexually reproducing species, including humans. There are only two sexes because there are only two types of gametes in humans: sperm and egg. Males have reproductive anatomy with the biological function of producing sperm, and females have reproductive anatomy with the biologic function of producing ova. This is not a controversial statement. In biology, it's foundational and it's universal, and all attempts to define sex otherwise are either nonsensical or self-refuting. Variations in development, sometimes called disorders or differences of sex development, do not create additional sexes. They are rare medical conditions that affect how male or female develop-- how male or female development unfolds. But crucially, they represent anatomical variation within male and female sexes, not new or intermediate sexes. Moreover, it is important to distinguish between people with objective developmental conditions, which LB730 fully accounts for, and people without such conditions who merely assert a subjective cross-sex identity. Sex-segregated intimate spaces like bathrooms and locker rooms are important because sex is not an abstract category, a social construct, or an identity. It is a biological category that results in real and significant physical and behavioral differences between males and females. As a group, males have substantially greater size, muscle mass, bone density, upper body strength than females. Males also account for the overwhelming majority of violent and sexual crimes. These differences are the reason societies across cultures and throughout history have created sex-segregated intimate spaces. Bathrooms and locker rooms are not ideological spaces for affirming a false self-concept, they are places where people undress, where people are vulnerable, and they expect and deserve privacy. Sex-based separations exist not to arbitrarily exclude, but to protect, especially women and girls. When we erase sex as a legal category in these spaces, we remove the very safeguard that

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justifies their separation in the first place. LB730 does not target or single out anyone. It sets a clear objective and biologically grounded rule that apply equally to everybody. It allows for single occupancy in family facilities. It includes commonsense exceptions for caregivers in emergencies and maintenance. And it provides clarity for schools and state agencies that are currently grappling with similar issues. In law, I think we could all agree that truth and clarity matters. When definitions become a matter of self-declared, unfalsifiable feelings, enforcement becomes impossible and important legal protections dissolve. LB730 restores a definition of sex that is scientifically correct, publicly understandable, and administrable. Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Go ahead.

**COLIN WRIGHT:** This bill is not radical, it reflects biological reality and long-standing social norms built around safety, privacy, and fairness. And for these reasons, I urge you to advance LB730. Thank you for your time.

**SANDERS:** Really close to the clock. Thank you, Mr. Wright, for your testimony. Check to see with the committee to see if there are any questions. Senator Andersen.

**ANDERSEN:** Thank you, Chairwoman. And thank you for being here. [INAUDIBLE] biologist. That's awesome. You seem very definitive in that there are only two sexes, male and female. Have you heard of any other arguments that lend any credence to why you would not pass LB730?

**COLIN WRIGHT:** Well, I mean, I've heard a lot of people attempt to make arguments to undermine something like the existence of two sexes, but they all, they all completely fail. Because really what it comes down to is having the function to produce either sperm or ova. So unless you can find a third type of gamete, that's what would be required in order to have a third or intermediate sex of some sort. So this hasn't been discovered in science. This would be Nobel Prize worthy if it is ever discovered. As a scientist, you know, we always leave out hope for future data, but so far that has not, that hasn't shown itself.

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**ANDERSEN:** [INAUDIBLE] evolutionary biologist. I mean, you've studied evolution. So up until now, the point of history and man has not existed.

**COLIN WRIGHT:** No, there hasn't been a third sex, but the sex binary has been something for 600 million years up to a billion years

**ANDERSEN:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Any other questions? Senator Meyer.

**F. MEYER:** Just very briefly. So you would, you would categorize this argument as facts versus feelings?

**COLIN WRIGHT:** I think that's an accurate representation. Yeah.

**F. MEYER:** OK. Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Any other questions? Senator Lonowski.

**LONOWSKI:** Thank you, Chair. And thank you, Doctor. So as an evolutionary biologist, can you-- is there a way you can compare this to a spectrum with other mammals?

**COLIN WRIGHT:** I mean, humans are mammals, and all mammals have the same sort of reproductive system that we do. Males are defined having the biological function to produce sperm; females similar, but producing ova. You know, this isn't just something with mammals, too. Again, as I mentioned, this is a universal defining feature of males and females throughout the entire animal kingdom, throughout all of plants. We define a male asparagus the same way we define a male human, or a turtle, or a squirrel, or an alligator. So, yeah, it's a universal concept. This doesn't-- it doesn't change based on what species that you're currently looking at. It's, it's fundamentally universal.

**LONOWSKI:** Thank you. Can you explain to me, like, where binary is on the spectrum of, of sexes? Does that make sense? I, I don't understand the term binary all the time.

**COLIN WRIGHT:** So when we say that sex is binary, what we mean is that there are only two sexes. And that's because, again, the sexes are defined as those two different, you know, entirely different,

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non-overlapping reproductive strategies. One is producing many small mobile gametes, what we call sperm, and then another strategy that produces fewer but much larger and nutrient-dense gametes that are called ova. So that's-- because there's only two of those reproductive strategies rooted in the size of the relative gametes, that's why we say sex is binary and that there's only two.

**LONOWSKI:** OK. Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Any other questions? Thank you very much for your testimony, Mr. Wright. Appreciate it.

**COLIN WRIGHT:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Next on our invitation invite list is Julie Lane. Good afternoon. Welcome.

**JULIE LANE:** Thank you so much. My name is Julie Lane, J-u-l-i-e L-a-n-e. I'm a native of Omaha, Nebraska, representing today the group Women Are Real. I'm a three-time girls' Class A state tennis champion, a finalist in Class A girls' volleyball, and a former NCAA athlete. I still compete today. I'm a lifelong Democrat, a big lesbian, a mother, a former teacher with training in childhood and adolescent development, and have lived in San Francisco for the past 31 years. Obviously, I am also a lifelong women's locker room user. And just for the record, and for clarity, there's no such thing as trans. No one is more special than anybody else, especially when rights are considered. I came of age during Gen X in what I believe was the golden age of being a female athlete with Title IX in relative full swing, and a sense that I could grow and develop in a world that accepted me. Critical thinking also existed back then. In the last few decades, this golden age has been tarnished by males pretending to be women, invading our protected spaces, including lesbian spaces, and creating fear and danger where we used to feel safe, in sex-separated bathrooms and locker rooms. So how do we get here? I'm not sure if you all have heard of the term AGP. It stands for autogynephilia, which means sexual arousal by males pretending to be female. That's AGP, it's an important term to know. Breaking women's boundaries is the point for AGPs, and escalation is the reality. Which brings us to this bill. We're trying to recreate separate sex spaces, not based on feelings or perversions, but based on sex, and this is how it must be. To break this down, let's talk about the proliferation of, quote unquote, trans

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porn in just the last few years. In 2022, Pornhub marked a 75% increase in male to female, quote unquote, trans porn viewers. Videos of males in dresses masturbating in women's restrooms are all over social media. All of this is available to children at the push of a button. Not to mention the, quote unquote, trans ideology being taught in school curriculums and also infesting the Democratic Party's messaging. I'm a Democrat, this is not OK with me. It is no wonder that this scourge of boundary violations has proliferated. This leads to society-wide issues with males violating the boundaries of females, supported by laws and policies, and uninformed, deluded politicians selling out women and children. We all know that since the beginning of humanity, males have had a higher rate of violence and sexual assault. A, quote unquote, trans-identified male is still a male. Every cell in his body is male, always and forever. It's basic biology. If you look at this graphic from Great Britain, it shows the rates of sex offenders in prisons separated into groups of female, male, and men who identify as women. You can see quite a jump in the deluded males violently violating female boundaries in the males who identify as women. So do all men do this? Of course not. My brothers and the vast majority of men would never invade female-protected spaces. However, in junior high, a trusted male coach in Omaha came into our locker room when half of us were undressed. I honestly think he planned this and did it every season. I have a little bit more to go.

**SANDERS:** Please continue.

**JULIE LANE:** My teammates and I have never forgotten this violation. I don't know if he has escalated his perverted behavior in the intervening years. I hope not. The current law allows any male to enter female spaces. This should never happen to any females by any males. We need to bring back boundaries and pass LB730. Mixed-stall bathrooms are unsafe for women and girls as well. Imagine leaving your safe, locked stall and running into a man masturbating right outside of it. This is happening. Why does my gym put up big signs about men working in the locker room, but allows men in dresses and lipstick to saunter right in? Where are the warnings for women about the imposters wearing dresses? I'm almost done. Why on earth would anyone here support mixing males with their known proclivity of violence and sexual assault, let alone confused, perverted, escalating female sex

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mimics, into vulnerable female protected spaces? All males stay out so that we keep bad men out. Please vote for LB730. Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Thank you. Thank you for your testimony. Let's check from the committee if there's any questions. Senator Lonowski.

**LONOWSKI:** Thank you, Senator-- Chair Sanders. Thank you for your testimony, Julie. Sorry for the cold weather to bring you back to Nebraska.

**JULIE LANE:** It's alright, it's bracing.

**LONOWSKI:** I just want your-- like, your thoughts on this. Would you consider this like a fad or a trend or do you think it's being pushed by big pharma because of the lifelong use of drugs that people need or what do you, what do you attribute this movement to?

**JULIE LANE:** Yeah, I think social media is a huge part of it. During COVID, kids and adults were sitting there on computers and screens all day long scrolling. And I think the, like I said, the escalation happens when you get into an algorithm, and it pulls you further and further in. I also think kids that are claiming these different gender identities are getting a lot of attention. And a lot of times that, like mentioned before, they have comorbidities with their mental health issues, with anxiety, trauma in the family, etcetera. And this is their way to get attention. And, and schools bring that in even further. They're using pronouns, and the teachers are saying, I'm also what you are, and, and it's very confusing for the kids. It's, it's inappropriate developmentally for young kids, but it's still happening in kindergarten all the way up. And it's inappropriate for teenagers who are really trying to figure themselves out to be told, well, you're probably this. If you're confused about your body, then you're properly trans. It's just not fair to do to kids, and it does roll them into this lifelong medicalization that pharma companies definitely benefit from.

**LONOWSKI:** OK. Thank you for your testimony.

**JULIE LANE:** You're welcome. Thanks.

**SANDERS:** Senator Meyer.

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**F. MEYER:** Thank you, Madam Chair. So in your lifetime as an athlete and, and in your adult life, could you kind of try to give us maybe a, a chronological area where the popularity of the thought processes, thought processes between people promoting this and your experience with the media and social media, and how have they kind of blended over your kind of adult life since you were in college?

**JULIE LANE:** Well, I think--

**F. MEYER:** You know what I mean.

**JULIE LANE:** Yeah. I think it's been insidious. I think it's happening. It has-- started happening in the early '90s in California where I was. I watched it happen all the way to today. Involving kids is a cover for the AGPs that I talked about. These guys are perverts. And they don't want to be called perverts, they want to act like they've always been this way, despite the fact that many of them are married and get divorced, cut their penis off, and say they're a woman. OK, it makes no sense to me either. But kids are their cover. If kids are saying, I was trans from birth, and my parents are, you know, helping me become my true self, I don't know how you can be your true self if you're pumping hormones in and cutting body parts off. It doesn't make any sense. So I think there's a lot behind the scenes in tech. There are people in all the professions, medical, psychological, all of them pushing this. I don't know why. But I think-- unfortunately, I think some of the decision-makers, maybe even in this room, have grandkids, or nieces or nephews, or even children that say they're trans. And, therefore, nobody's willing to say no to this. But the rest of society is still insanity here. We are in reality, it's hurting kids, it's hurting women, it's hurting boys and men, too. We can't go on with this. Somebody's got to stand up and be brave, despite the fact that somebody might be in your family and be confused about this. You can't be confused, you're the bosses here. You guys are in Nebraska trying to lead us. Please do the right thing.

**F. MEYER:** Just one more question quickly.

**SANDERS:** Senator Meyer.

**F. MEYER:** So you live in California, and, and this is kind of a broad open-ended question. Do you, do you think-- as so many things in our society, I'm going to just say follow the money. So with the

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pharmaceutical industry, we know over the last few generations, that's kind of proven to be true. So is this a situation where, maybe, that is starting to creep into the equation of, of how many of those drugs could be sold into the marketplace?

**JULIE LANE:** I think 100%. There has been an abdication of duty by doctors and psychologists who are just stamping these approvals for hormones and-- I mean, these kids are worth millions of dollars. If you start them early and they're medicalized the rest of their lives, it's millions and millions of that's going to be billed. And pharma is going to benefit from that. So somebody needs to write a law and stop it from happening. Tomorrow, I think you're going to have another law about this. Like, it's all related. None of this is good for anybody. And nobody should be enriched by this either. It's, it's horrible.

**F. MEYER:** Thank you.

**JULIE LANE:** Yeah.

**SANDERS:** Any other questions from the committee? Senator Andersen.

**ANDERSEN:** Thank you, Chairwoman. And thank you for being here. I, I think sometimes people say that if they say it enough, that it'll become true. But the reality is it's not true, right? Senator Kauth has been brave, as I started out in my comments earlier, you know, in not letting up and continuing to fight this fight. Are there-- in your personal opinion, are there other things that we should be doing that we're not doing? I mean, not counting the bills that we'll see later this week as well. Any other thoughts?

**JULIE LANE:** Oh, yeah, I have a lot of thoughts. What time is it? All right, it needs to get out of education. Activist teachers should not be allowed to teach kids these things and talk about their private lives in school. Leave yourselves at home and bring your teacher to school. That's what belongs in school, not your activist self. All the policies and laws, almost every single policy and law in California has been changed to include gender identity. That's all got to be reversed. Otherwise, the sex-based protections of women and girls is, is gone. Men can say they're women anywhere in California and they have the right of way to do that. And if I say no, I get in trouble or kicked out of the gym or even arrested if I, if I protest. So there's a-- the legal stuff has to change. Culturally, we have to stop pushing

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this. We have to fight back. Anybody that doesn't believe in this ideology, which I think is like a cult, that's been legalized, and it's all over TV and social media, it's got to stop. People have to say no to this. They've got to sit with their kids and talk to them about this and not let them think that what is on their screen is true. It's not true, but they're getting it in school and on screens, so it's got to stop. Somebody's got to be brave. Every, every parent's got to be brave and, and just tell their kid, reality is you're a boy, and you're going to stay a boy the rest of your life. Let's get used to it, let's get you some help or let's talk about why it's OK to be a boy in this society. It's not easy, I know that. But it's not easy for girls either. So everybody's got to be protected by social norms. We've got to bring those back.

**ANDERSEN:** Well, we're working on it here in Nebraska. Thank you.

**JULIE LANE:** Thank you. I'm glad to be here.

**SANDERS:** Any other questions? See none, thank you very much for your testimony.

**JULIE LANE:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Thank you. We've, actually, also come to the end of our proponent testimony hour and we're going to take a little break and we will ask the proponents to leave and we'll invite the opponents in. We do have Alexander Liu if you just stay right there, and then we'll have you go first. Maybe once the room is empty, it will be a good time for you to come forward and take a seat because you'll be next for your testimony.

[BREAK]

**SANDERS:** Start our hour for the opponents to testify, and we have an invite testifier, Alexander Liu, please. Welcome.

**ALEXANDER LIU:** Hi. Thank you for having me and also thank you again for the ADA accommodations and helping me get that all set up because I do appreciate that

**SANDERS:** You're welcome.

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**ALEXANDER LIU:** So, yeah, I'm here to oppose LB730, and I do want to say that I find that there was a bit of audacity that Senator Kauth is bringing this up considering that you guys had to start this session--

**SANDERS:** Can I interrupt you for just a second, Mr. Liu?

**ALEXANDER LIU:** Oh, yeah.

**SANDERS:** We need you to say your first and last name and spell the first and the last name for the record.

**ALEXANDER LIU:** Oh, sorry.

**SANDERS:** Yes, thank you.

**ALEXANDER LIU:** Yeah, Alexander Liu, A-l-e-x-a-n-d-e-r L-i-u.

**SANDERS:** Perfect.

**ALEXANDER LIU:** Would you like me to introduce her too? I can. It's fine.

**SANDERS:** You sure can.

**ALEXANDER LIU:** Yeah, well, this is Keigo, K-e-i-g-o, if you want to put her in there. But, yeah, so I, I will say that I find that Senator Kauth has some audacity to try to bring this up again, considering you guys had to start this session dealing with Senator McKinney's [SIC], you know, legal issue that literally deals with sexual assault. So I do find that a bit interesting. He did resign, but still considering that's-- the whole problem happened, it's kind of interesting that you guys wanted to do that. So the main issues here that you guys seem to be focused on are privacy and, you know, this bill, I don't know how you're going to enforce it considering you would have to literally sexually assault people to actually check what's in people's pants. Because, like, what are you guys going to do? Are you guys going to, like, have security guards outside of bathrooms? Like, you're going to force people to strip to do that? Also you're including schools in this, and not just adults but also minors. You're giving free passes to pedophiles and people who would potentially want to actually harm children, because then you're literally giving them an open excuse to place themselves in positions where they would have free access to kids. So you're actively going to be harming people by having a bill

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like this there. So that's a huge liability and a lawsuit just waiting to happen. So I don't know what you're planning on doing to actually enforce this. There's not a way to word this in there. Kauth doesn't have an option for it. She didn't say anything. She didn't say this last year either. She just has a bunch of platitudes in talking about stuff. She also doesn't cite anything. I don't know if you noticed that. She never cites any sources, just randomly spouts a bunch of statistics, which is always fun. But that's a fun issue to deal with. But I also want to point out trans people are less than 1% of the population of this country. I want to point out, so 1% of the population is comparing that, like, 1% of the population are ambidextrous. So we're literally less than the entire population that is ambidextrous, as in, you know, they can write with both hands. There's less of us than that. That's the comparison she's using. That's how many people that she's trying to say are like predators and everything, and it makes no sense. So while you guys are running the clock out on this issue of, you know, trying to deal with a made-up problem that doesn't actually exist, that she's trying to create, you guys could be doing real issues like the \$471 million deficit. You guys still haven't addressed. You could also be dealing with the affordability housing crisis that also has not been addressed. You could be dealing with the inflation that's causing food insecurity that your constituents are worried about. There's a lot of other problems you guys are not actually addressing that this is taking time away from, and your constituents are, obviously, worried about. There's an actual, really, simple problem or solution to this problem: put locks in all the stall doors and have actual stalls with no gaps, which I will point out other countries have by the way, like, they-- that's how they have their bathrooms. It's a very simple solution. It's just Occam's razor. Like, just do that, very simple problem, everybody would be happy. Nobody likes the way that stalls are like this, I'll point out, like it doesn't make any sense.

**SANDERS:** I am so sorry, you have 3 minutes.

**ALEXANDER LIU:** Yeah, no, that was, that was my ending. That was it.

**SANDERS:** I do also want to point out every senator brings a bill, every bill gets a hearing. That's what we do in the state of Nebraska, whether we agree with it or not.

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**ALEXANDER LIU:** Oh, yeah. No, it's just--

**SANDERS:** We sit here, right, and have a hearing, and you have the right to testify. And I appreciate you being here. I knew it took some accommodations and some time, but I certainly appreciate your testimony. So now we ask the committee to see if they have any questions for you. Are there any questions for Mr. Liu?

**HUNT:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** See none, but thank you so much for coming in and thank you to I forget his name.

**ALEXANDER LIU:** Oh, her name, it's Keigo.

**SANDERS:** Her name, Kato.

**ALEXANDER LIU:** Oh, Keigo with a g.

**SANDERS:** Keigo. Thank you very much for coming in today.

**ALEXANDER LIU:** Yeah. Come on.

**HUNT:** I didn't even see her.

**ALEXANDER LIU:** You're not supposed to, she's not supposed to be seen.

**SANDERS:** And next on our testimony invite list is Michelle Jud. Welcome.

**MICHELLE JUD:** Hello, everybody. Good afternoon, members of the committee. My name is Michelle Jud, M-i-c-h-e-l-l-e J-u-d. I'm here on behalf of the Rainbow Parents of Nebraska. We're a parent-formed organization that fights for the rights and well-being of LGBTQ+ youth in our state. I wasn't sure if I wanted to be serious or lighthearted today. I say lighthearted because I think we all know how ridiculous it is that we're doing this here again. We think it's an egregious waste of the state's time and resources to have an all-day hearing on an issue that couldn't make it through last year. We also think it's ridiculous how much energy Kathleen Kauth spends targeting one of the smallest and most vulnerable groups in our state. It would be funny if it wasn't so dangerous, and we do take this very seriously. You will hear a lot of heartfelt testimony from very passionate people today. It will be a lot the same speeches, facts, and statistics that you

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heard last year. But this issue didn't move forward for a reason, and I urge you to listen to everything that the opponents have to say today on this bill. LB730 is discriminatory, harmful, and unnecessary. This bill is discriminatory because it forces trans people into unsafe spaces, increasing the risk of harassment, assault, and public confrontation, sends a message of state-sanctioned exclusion, reinforcing stigma and discrimination. It discriminates against trans employees and citizens by not providing equal access to the appropriate restroom facilities and public buildings. This bill is harmful because it disproportionately harms LGBTQ+ students, leading to bullying, school avoidance, and worse mental health conditions. It encourages [INAUDIBLE] of bodies, allowing staff or peers to decide who belongs, harming trans people, and anyone who does not conform to traditional gender stereotypes. It erases transgender and nonbinary people in law by forcing everyone into male or female definition for state purposes. This bill is unnecessary because it seeks to solve a problem that doesn't exist, while documented harm to trans people is real and measurable. This is the fourth year in a row that one particular senator has brought anti-trans bills to our State Legislature. This is a fourth year in a row that we have had to fight against these discriminatory, harmful, and unnecessary bills. Rainbow Parents have spent a lot of time trying to convince everyone that trans people are just humans trying to live their lives. We have begged and pleaded for you to see the humanity of trans kids. We've given countless examples of how being trans or queer is the least interesting thing about our LGBTQ youth. We've met with numerous senators, relayed our personal stories, and shared information about our families in hopes of convincing them that trans kids are just like everyone else. All of this falls on deaf ears here in the Unicameral because, ultimately, this is not about protecting children and women as they like to say. It is about erasing trans people from existence. It is about eradicating something that they don't understand and, therefore, something that they fear. Rainbow Parents of Nebraska vehemently opposes LB730, and we ask that you do not advance this bill out of committee. Thank you for your time. I'll answer any questions if you have any.

**SANDERS:** Thank you for your testimony. We'll check to see if there are any questions. We see none, thank you for your testimony.

**MICHELLE JUD:** Thank you so much.

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**SANDERS:** Next invited guest is Ryan Sallans. Please come forward. Welcome. The floor is yours.

**RYAN SALLANS:** Thank you. To the Government, Military, and Veteran Affairs Committee Chairperson and members, my name is Ryan Sallans, R-y-a-n S-a-l-l-a-n-s. I currently live in Omaha, but I'm from Aurora originally. And I went to University of Nebraska-Lincoln where I received three degrees in cultural anthropology, English, and educational psychology. I now serve as an ambassador to the UNL's Council. I'm wearing two hats in speaking before you today. The first as a private citizen, and a second as a sex and gender subject-matter expert who has spent the past 20 years educating the state, nation, and parts of this world on human growth and development. As an expert utilized to assist with guidance for youth in public schools, emerging adults on college campuses, state employees, and the military, I ask that you oppose LB730. If you walk through the Capitol or other public spaces, our restrooms and locker rooms are already designated for men, women, single occupancy, and families. People go to these spaces accordingly. For example, if I were to get up right now and walk into the women's facility, what would people say? There's a man in a women's restroom, which would be the correct language to define me. I am a man who transitioned my sexed body from female to male. I know you would never know this by looking at me, that's the whole point of a transition. It's not sex-rejecting or gender-altering. You cannot alter gender, but you can intentionally transition a sexed body due to anomalies and unintentional conditions. As a professional dedicated to public health for youth and adults undergoing transition of their sex, this bill will further negatively impact their social skill development, peer engagement, and employment retention. What I also see transpiring from this bill is permission giving via good faith to create hostile environments that target any person who does not fit within their views of what boys and girls or men and women look like. If you're concerned with girls' and women's public safety, this bill will not protect them. It will most likely cause more harm by heightening physical insecurities, especially for girls and women who are more masculine or androgynous in appearance. As someone who lived 25 years as a female, I know what it feels like to be looked at and then questioned by others as to whether you were in the right restroom, even when I had long hair. As a person that underwent a transition I also know how anxiety provoking it is to utilize public facilities. It took me 6 months to switch over from female to male

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spaces. What I have learned 21 years later is I prefer male facilities, they have shorter to no lines. I ask that you listen carefully to why there is strong opposition to this bill based on professional assessment and community wellness, instead of subjectiveness based on an individual's judgment and discomfort. Please oppose this bill. Thank you for your time. And I'm happy to answer any questions that you may have. Respectfully, Ryan Sallans.

**SANDERS:** Thank you, Ryan Sallans, for your testimony. Check with the committee to see if there are any questions for you. I see none, thank you again for coming out with your testimony.

**RYAN SALLANS:** Thank you. Appreciate it.

**SANDERS:** Next we have Jane Erdenberger.

**SANDERS:** Good afternoon. Welcome.

**JANE ERDENBERGER:** Hi. Thank you very much. Good afternoon, Chairperson Sanders and members of the Government, Military, and Veteran Affairs Committee. My name is Jane Erdenberger. That's J-a-n-e E-r-d-e-n-b-e-r-g-e-r. You can tell I've spelled it several times over my lifetime. And I am the president of the Omaha Public Schools Board of Education. I'm here today on behalf of the Omaha Public Schools in respectful opposition to LB730. The Omaha Public Schools is the largest school district in the state of Nebraska, serving a diverse population of more than 52,000 students who speak 119 languages. We pride ourselves on embracing every student where they are when they come to us, without judging them in any way. We know that many children and parents choose to attend the Omaha Public Schools because they know that we treat every child with dignity, respect, and the acceptance that they deserve. We oppose LB730 because we believe that all students should be able to come to school feeling safe, secure, supported by their peers, and respected by their teachers and school administrators. We oppose this bill because it seeks to divide our students by telling some of them they are not welcome in certain areas of our schools. In our experience, local school communities can best identify how to support the young people they serve without the need for a one-size-fits-all approach set forth in LB730, especially as has been noted before, since LB730 seeks to solve a problem that we do not see in our hallways. We believe that all our children, especially the most vulnerable and sometimes the least protected, deserve to know

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that they are welcome at school with open arms, and that we as educators will stand up for their rights. We appreciate your time and consideration and encourage you to oppose LB730. Thank you very much. Please ask me questions.

**SANDERS:** Thank you, Jane Erdenberger. We'll check with the committee to see if they have any questions. Senator Meyer.

**F. MEYER:** I have one, I have one question. Thank you, Madam Chair. So in the OPS system, you said that-- kind of roundabout way, that no students are restricted from certain areas in your school buildings. So boys are welcome in girls' locker rooms?

**JANE ERDENBERGER:** You know, that's a very good point. I'm glad that you picked up on that. Of course, that is not the case. But we are not telling people they can't go into-- if someone is presenting as a girl, we're not going to send them into the boys' bathroom.

**F. MEYER:** So you do have places in the school where they're definite.

**JANE ERDENBERGER:** Of course.

**F. MEYER:** Just wanted to make that clear. Thank you.

**JANE ERDENBERGER:** But if you visit, we might not let you use the boys' bathroom until you establish that you're a man.

**F. MEYER:** I don't believe that.

**JANE ERDENBERGER:** Right?

**F. MEYER:** Thank you.

**JANE ERDENBERGER:** OK.

**SANDERS:** Are there any other questions from the committee?

**JANE ERDENBERGER:** Thank you very much.

**SANDERS:** Thank you very much for your testimony. Next on our list is Christon MacTaggart. Good afternoon. Welcome.

**CHRISTON MacTAGGART:** Good afternoon, Senator Sanders, members of the committee. My name is Christon MacTaggart, C-h-r-i-s-t-o-n, last name

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M-a-c-T a-g-g-a-r-t. I'm the executive director of the Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, here in opposition on behalf of our organization and our network programs to LB730. We are a statewide leadership organization on domestic sexual violence in Nebraska, and also the umbrella agency for service providers across the state who collectively cover all Nebraska counties and provide support services to victims of sexual and domestic violence. And we've seen this bill introduced a number of times now, always with the narrative that this a-- this bill is sexual violence prevention. And as somebody with almost 30 years of experience working in this field, in an organization that has hundreds of years of collective experience, I want to be clear that this is not sexual violence prevention. In the last year alone, our network of organizations served over 13,000 survivors, including almost 1,800 individuals and children whom they provided shelter for. Those numbers include individuals who identify as transgender. And yet we have not had incidents in which a trans survivor accessing services has victimized another survivor. And that's consistent with what we would expect because being trans does not mean you're more likely to commit sexual violence. There's-- the research doesn't support that. They're significantly more likely, in fact, to be victims of sexual violence. As nationally, almost half of transgender individuals experience sexual assault during their lifetime. In Nebraska alone, amongst LGBTQ-plus students, they are 4 times more likely to have experienced both, both forced sexual intercourse and physical domestic violence. And those trends continue into adulthood, where they are twice as likely to experience sexual or domestic violence as those who are not. We know that safe spaces and people to connect with is a factor that helps reduce violence. And especially amongst young people, they often find those safe places and spaces at school. If you pass this bill, you'll be creating a place where they may feel discriminated against and unsafe, and taking a population with some of the highest rates of violence against them and removing the protective factors that help reduce the violence. I would also just say we work on the issue of sexual violence in Nebraska every day. It is hard and challenging and many days it's emotionally exhausting. Please don't add to the workloads of those who do this work by introducing false narratives that we then have to spend time combatting. And please don't create one more place where trans individuals feel unsafe. We would ask that you oppose LB730, and I'm happy to answer any questions.

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**SANDERS:** Thank you very much for your testimony. Are there any other questions for Ms. MacTaggart? Senator Andersen.

**ANDERSEN:** Thank you, Chairwoman. Thank you, Ms. MacTaggart, for being here. So you specialize in domestic violence-- sexual violence and domestic violence, right?

**CHRISTON MacTAGGART:** Domestic, sexual violence, trafficking, yeah.

**ANDERSEN:** So you deal with a lot of people that feel threatened or are threatened or enter an environment where they feel very uncomfortable and feel as if they're at risk of bodily harm, right?

**CHRISTON MacTAGGART:** Mm-hmm.

**ANDERSEN:** So then what do you tell to a, to a young lady that is in a bathroom where a man walks in, and she now has those feelings of being threatened or the potential for violence or sexual violence, if she perceives that because this situation has been allowed to be. How do you justify that to the girl?

**CHRISTON MacTAGGART:** So--

**ANDERSEN:** That it's OK?

**CHRISTON MacTAGGART:** Sure. So I would say typically, what we see-- I mean, this bill won't stop men from perpetrating sexual violence on women.

**ANDERSEN:** But it does keep them in separate spaces, right, where they're in awkward situations, where they're disrobed or they have their private parts hanging out because they're using the bathroom. It does separate all that, right? So, I mean, that does make it a more secure environment. Isn't that true?

**CHRISTON MacTAGGART:** Well, it separates-- I, I, I hear what you're saying, as far as that it would prohibit trans individuals with-- and coming into the restroom that they-- with the gender they identify as. What I would say is that vastly more concerning to me are the number of men who are not trans who are perpetrating on women in schools, not in schools. I mean, we have those conversations as a coalition and as programs every single day. The situation that you're describing is not necessarily something that we're encountering, as far as individuals

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who are concerned that they're going to be sexually assaulted because there's a trans individual in the bathroom. I mean, to be honest, it's just not something that we see. And I actually think that schools are doing a really good job of navigating it from, from my experience and, and having those conversations with folks.

**ANDERSEN:** But it doesn't have to be a trans person. Right? It could be a boy that decides, you know, I think I should be able to use a girl's bathroom.

**CHRISTON MacTAGGART:** It could be.

**ANDERSEN:** Right.

**CHRISTON MacTAGGART:** And, and again, I'm not sure that that's necessarily-- like, this bill feels like it's very specific on prohibiting transgender individuals. I feel like there's a better way to do that. If you're trying to keep boys out of girls' restrooms, I feel that most schools probably have policies around that anyway. And so, it feels like there is a better to do than to target a specific community that is much more likely to be victims of sexual violence than to perpetrate sexual violence.

**ANDERSEN:** So my, my interpretation of it-- and I'm not the expert, Senator Kauth is-- is that this prohibits all men, biological males--

**CHRISTON MacTAGGART:** Right.

**ANDERSEN:** --from going into women's private spaces.

**CHRISTON MacTAGGART:** Right. Yes. That's my understanding.

**ANDERSEN:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Thank you. Any other questions? Senator Cavanaugh.

**J. CAVANAUGH:** Thank you, Chair. And thanks for being here, Ms. MacTaggart. I'm curious about what you said that, that trans individuals are much more likely to be victims of sexual violence than perpetrators, and that they are less-- well, I guess my question would be-- in case I wrote this down wrong-- are trans individuals any more likely to be perpetrators of sexual violence than non-trans individuals?

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**CHRISTON MacTAGGART:** No. I mean, I-- I'm not here to say that there is never someone who identifies as transgender that would perpetrate sexual violence. I, I, I think that we see men, women, perpetrators [INAUDIBLE] domestic violence. We-- I mean, trans individuals, that may also be true for. I think our position is that they are not more likely to be perpetrators of domestic or sexual violence.

**J. CAVANAUGH:** OK. Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Any other questions from the committee? See none. Thank you very much for your testimony. Next on the invite list, and I don't have a name, but I have representative from the Nebraska Psychological Association. Good afternoon. Welcome.

**ASHLEIGH CLARKE:** Good afternoon. Happy to give my name. Chairperson and members of the committee, my name is Dr. Ashleigh Clarke. That's A-s-h-l-e-i-g-h, last name Clarke, C-l-a-r-k-e. I'm a licensed clinical psychologist here in Nebraska and I'm speaking today on behalf of the Nebraska Psychological Association. NPA opposes LB730 because it conflicts with established professional standards, creates significant implementation challenges for public institutions, and is associated with increased mental health risks without demonstrated safety benefit. Research consistently shows that restrictive restrooms and locker room policies are associated with increased psychological distress and poorer mental health outcomes for transgender and gender diverse individuals. In school settings, these policies have been associated with increased risk for sexual assault for transgender youth, as well as elevated emotional distress and avoidance behaviors that contribute to poor-- poorer mental health outcomes overall. Importantly, these outcomes are not caused by identity themselves but by the environment and policies that increase stigma and deny acceptance. L-- the harm created by LB730 is not incidental. They arise from the bill's requirements that institutions enforce rigid binary classifications that diverge from current medical and psychological standards placing schools, universities, and state agencies in enforcement roles they are not designed to perform. In practice, these requirements cannot be reliably implemented. Institutions lack any appropriate or standardized mechanism to determine compliance, resulting in inconsistent complaint-driven enforcement that increases stigma and conflict without evidence of increased safety benefit. Finally, although LB730 is framed around facility use, its effects extend beyond access. Policies that place

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public institutions out of alignment with evidence-based professional norms affect recruitment and retention across education, healthcare, and state systems at a time when Nebraska is already facing significant workforce shortages. So for these reasons, the Nebraska Psychological Association respectfully urges the committee not to advance LB730. Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Thank you, Dr. Clarke, for your testimony. Check from the committee to see if there are any questions. Senator Meyer.

**F. MEYER:** Thank you for being here, Dr. Clarke. So in the second paragraph of your testimony, you talked about-- you talk about established psychological science. Other testifiers earlier today talked about established science that men are men and women are women. So what's your definition of a woman?

**ASHLEIGH CLARKE:** Are we talk-- can I say, can you sh-- you said the second paragraph, and, and peer reviews demonstrates that policies--

**F. MEYER:** Yeah, it, it just refers to established psychological science.

**ASHLEIGH CLARKE:** Because I'm trying to--

**F. MEYER:** OK, I'm comparing that with sci-- the, the other science, established science, I would say, that--

**ASHLEIGH CLARKE:** OK.

**F. MEYER:** --there, there are 2 sexes. So what's your definition, if you're going to use this psychological science, what's your definition of a female?

**ASHLEIGH CLARKE:** Someone who identifies as a female.

**F. MEYER:** Nothing to do with the science of her body?

**ASHLEIGH CLARKE:** Or the science of how they experience themselves and identify and feel in their body, as well as-- again, these are-- if you look on the-- they are taken from the American Psychological Association and there is-- from the Williams Institute-- I'm sorry-- the reference list.

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**F. MEYER:** So, so once again, we're in this quandary between feelings, which you just referenced, and scientific facts of what constitutes a, a female biologically. Is that a fair statement?

**ASHLEIGH CLARKE:** Can you rephrase that? I'm sorry-- or say that again?

**F. MEYER:** So once again, we're, we're kind of caught in, caught in that quandary between the feeling, which you just referenced--

**ASHLEIGH CLARKE:** The identity.

**F. MEYER:** Identity versus the established science identity of what constitutes a female and/or a male.

**ASHLEIGH CLARKE:** So from the American Medical Association and the American Psychological Association, sex and gender are interrelated and they are not clearly defined, so we're talking about 2 different things here. So when you're talking about just sex alone, you're talking about anatomy. But a person's gender incorporates not only their, their anatomy, but their identity. And so those things, when they interact, that's what creates a person's gender. So.

**F. MEYER:** So, so at what age in the maturity of a young person does that start to show itself?

**ASHLEIGH CLARKE:** I feel like that might be an argument that will come up tomorrow--

**F. MEYER:** OK. Thank you.

**ASHLEIGH CLARKE:** --rather than for this bill.

**SANDERS:** Any other questions from the committee, from the committee?

**ASHLEIGH CLARKE:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Thank you very much for your testimony. Next on the list is A.T. Miller. Welcome. Welcome. The floor is yours.

**A.T. MILLER:** Thank you, Senator Sanders and Senators of the Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee. My name is A.T. Miller, A-T M-i-l-e-r. I am the executive director of OutNebraska, a statewide, nonpartisan, nonprofit working to celebrate and empower LGBTQIA-plus Nebraskans. Every Nebraskan values the opportunity to go

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about their daily lives without fear, including transgender and nonbinary people. LB730 will not only hurt transgender and nonbinary folks, but genuinely all Nebraskans. It will put the good life out of reach for ourselves and our neighbors. Inclusive restroom policies do not reduce safety. What does increase risk is forcing transgender people into spaces where they are more likely to be harassed or harmed. Under this law, any person, including women and girls, could be forced to show her ID or otherwise prove her gender before allowing her to enter a public restroom. This bill is impossible to enforce and dangerous to all women. Redefining sex based solely on a person's body opens the floodgates to potential discrimination on the basis of sex-based stereotypes. Farming and ranching women who don't present feminine enough could be gender-policed in communities across the state. This issue is not a rural urban issue, it is an everyone issue. This bill is an invitation for abuse and harassment, and it makes all people less safe, especially LGBTQ-plus people who will be unable to access public facilities safely. We must stand for the safety and dignity of all people. My own hair length is also not uncommon on men in Nebraska. Several times every week, someone approaching me from behind will call me ma'am, only to apologize with embarrassment when I turn and they see my beard. Many trans men themselves have beards and would be an unwelcome presence in female-designated restrooms, as this law would require. This law would create far more problems and does not solve any currently existing complaints or inconveniences in Nebraska. When we are doing our business, it's nobody else's business, including the state's. States and communities across the country have protected the freedom of transgender people to be themselves for decades, and this bill threatens to turn back the clock by requiring discrimination against transgender people. This bill limits our fundamental right to be ourselves and threatens to erase trans people from public life. Transgender and nonbinary people have always existed and will always exist. They are our friends, family members, neighbors, and colleagues. If Nebraska truly wants to protect women, we need to focus on legislation that ends gender-based violence for everyone, improves economic security, and ends mass incarceration. We must listen to the majority of voices in Nebraska you will hear from today. We strongly urge you not to advance LB730. Please allow trans and nonbinary Nebraskans to have the full opportunities that our great state offers. Equality before the law means the good life is for all of us.

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**SANDERS:** Thank you A.T. Miller. We'll check with the committee , see if they have any questions. See none. Got off easy. Thank you very much for your testimony.

**A.T. MILLER:** Thank you for your time.

**SANDERS:** Next, we have Braden--Brandon-- Braden Foreman-Black.

**BRADEN FOREMAN-BLACK:** Yes.

**SANDERS:** Please come forward. Welcome.

**BRADEN FOREMAN-BLACK:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** The floor is yours.

**BRADEN FOREMAN-BLACK:** All right. Perfect. Just pulling it up here. Hello, everyone. My name is Braden Foreman Black. That is B-r-a-d-e-n F-o-r-e-m-a-n-B-l-a-c-k. I am a social worker and therapist at Kindred Psychology. While I see clients across demographics, Kindred Psychology is known for providing excellent mental health care to trans-- to gender diverse and gender expansive people across the state. I am here opposing LB730 because of its exclusion and blatant disregard for gender diverse Nebraskans and health care professionals, as well as its negative impact on the mental health systems in Nebraska. I would like to start off and say that I was raised in Scottsbluff, and I am proud of the values that were instilled in me from a family of farmers and educators. I was raised with the value that Nebraskan's are experts of their own lived experiences and do not need outsiders telling them how to live. I take so much pride in being a trained social worker and mental health professional, trained by multiple Nebraska institutions. So I reached out to Senator Kauth's office to get an understanding of the rationale behind LB730, LB731, and LB732. I was pleased that Senator Kauth agreed to meet because I thought, wow, we're finally gonna get some common ground here. Unfortunately, I quickly learned at the onset of that meeting that Kauth had no intention to respect the expertise of the trained Nebraska professionals. Instead, Senate Kauth invited paid biased agitators representing national organizations whose sole mission it is to discredit the lived experiences of trans individuals who have no ties to Nebraska or its values, discrediting Nebraska professionals' expertise and excluding the voices of Nebraska constituents from a sitting Nebraska senator. So therefore, I'm going to take this time to

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explain the impacts of this bill to you all, since Senator Kauth then refused to listen. My work with gender-diverse individuals and families as a social worker is becoming extremely and increasingly more difficult. The mental health care crisis in Nebraska is at a critical state and demands immediate solutions. And this is from the Nebraska Mental Health and Substance Use Research Study of 2025. So where are we at as a state when it comes to mental health? Mental health rates in Nebraska have doubled since pre-pandemic levels. Loneliness, depression, and anxiety continue to surge. Nearly one in five Nebraskans struggle with mental health, trans individuals disproportionately so, 67% of those experiencing discrimination that lead to mental health concerns. Nebraska is the 44th in the U.S. for mental health care access, particularly for youth, and over 50% of Nebraska's mental health professionals are over the age of 50, with not enough individuals being trained into the system, which means a lot of our professionals are going to be aging out in the coming years. In addition, 88 of Nebraska's 93 counties are designated as mental health shortage areas. And it's hard to pinpoint this specific bill alone about, about the full impacts out-- outside of LB731 and LB732, because what it does is it strips away systems for individuals to access expanded integrative care with already limited mental providers for youth specifically. So when you exclude people from society and take away basic needs, isolation, depression, and anxiety increase, enhancing the need for mental health providers. And every time the Senator Kauth introduces a bill such as this one, it completely upends the progress that can be achieved in the therapeutic space, because we have to pivot to address crisis-type situations such as suicide ideation that increases, hopelessness escalates, fear ensues, and substance use increases. The culmination of these bills is effectively saying that gender-diverse people don't deserve any of the opportunities in the state that could make them successful. So I always want to also talk about that this is a huge cost. Nebraska mental health care system is already at such a shortage, and we're already experiencing systemic barriers to accessing culturally competent and timely behavioral health care. These barriers contribute to disparities in mental health outcomes that hinder the overall well-being of these specific communities, which comes at a financial cost. Untreated or undertreated conditions can lead to higher rates of emergency care, unemployment, unemployment and involvement with public health systems, and child welfare, and corrections. So this is really important for us to really understand how we can be supportive of

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these communities, and right now, there is no plan for that. So I do want to invite some questions, because we are in a state of crisis when we're getting flooded with more and more concerns for mental health for these populations, and these bills say you can't access care, or there's going to be a huge issue. So with that I will take questions.

**SANDERS:** Thank you for your testimony. See if you have any questions from the committee. Senator Meyer.

**F. MEYER:** So in your, in your work in mental health, as you work with youth all across Nebraska?

**BRADEN FOREMAN-BLACK:** All across Nebraska. So we offer telehealth, so we see people from Scottsbluff to Omaha.

**F. MEYER:** So as, as some of your patients are struggling with, we'll just say their sexuality, and as they're moving from, say, elementary to junior high to high school, in my, in my opinion-- and I've worked in education for 30 years-- that's a really sensitive time for them to develop role models who are healthy for them-- healthy lifestyles for a bright future for them. So where along that age spectrum, as a professional, do you think it's healthy for them to stay consistent with the sex that they were born with, before they're old enough to make an informed decision of their own if they would like to transition? I don't know if that's clear enough for you. I mean--

**BRADEN FOREMAN-BLACK:** Sure.

**F. MEYER:** Someone in their early 20' s is far different than someone who is 14.

**BRADEN FOREMAN-BLACK:** Sure. I think it's such a case-by-case basis, right, because some people have access to knowledge early on about their identities. And just, I think, it, it really comes down to-- you know, we do see a lot of kids understand gender and gender roles at a very early age, right, that it starts right away when we put girls in pink stuff and boys in blue stuff. And so, gender is always reinforced. Now, some kids, you know, understand really early on that, hey, what I'm experiencing as a-- maybe a sex-- their sex, their like, assigned male at birth, might differ from that, which we call gender dysphoria, which is a part of the DSM-5. So when you asked somebody earlier about the things that we're seeing with science, sex and

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gender being different and the incongruence that we sometimes see with people. But some people, you know, go through life because of their family or their experiences or their family values and don't have an opportunity to explore their gender, and so they don't come out until later. So it really is case-by-case dependent, but we do know that kids early on do get a conceptualization of gender, and that could cause them distress early on or it might show up later, so it really just depends.

**F. MEYER:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** I think Senator Lonowski has a question.

**LONOWSKI:** Thank you, Senator Sanders. Thank you for being here. Appreciate it. So at one part in your testimony, you mentioned that 67% of trans people have emotional health issues or, or need to, to get some help. So I guess that was where I was trying to lead with one of the opponents, is that, is that 67% of people, and they think becoming trans will help their situation, or is it 67% after they've transitioned and people have issues with them, or can, or can you nail that down?

**BRADEN FOREMAN-BLACK:** Sure. So, so, so 67% of LGBTQ Nebraskans, and that can include people who are lesbian, gay--

**LONOWSKI:** Sure.

**BRADEN FOREMAN-BLACK:** --bi, engender [PHONETIC], so then transgender, so it does-- that incorporates the whole community. But they oft-- so the stat was that they face discrimination, which can lead to the feelings of depression, anxiety, isolation. So people don't-- aren't more mentally ill, per se, because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, but it's the stigma that people receive from society about those that might need support. Does that make sense?

**LONOWSKI:** Sure.

**BRADEN FOREMAN-BLACK:** OK, .

**LONOWSKI:** Thank you.

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**SANDERS:** Any other questions from the commun-- committee? Hmm, I'm getting tired. OK. Thank you very--

**BRADEN FOREMAN-BLACK:** OK. Thank you.

**SANDERS:** --much for your testimony. We have Eric Reiter. Welcome. The floor is yours.

**ERIC REITER:** Thank you. Good afternoon, Chairwoman Sanders and members of the Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee. My name is Eric Reiter, spelled E-r-i-c R-e-i-t-e-r, and I'm here today on behalf of Voices for Children in Nebraska. Our organization exists to elevate the voices of children and youth and to advance public policy that ensures all young people can grow up safe, healthy, and supported in their communities. For these reasons, we oppose LB730, as it puts children's safety and well-being at risk. LB730 singles out transgender and gender diverse children for differential treatment in schools, creating environments that increase stigma, fear, and harm rather than safety. Forcing young people to use restrooms or locker rooms that do not align with who they are undermines their identity-- undermines their dignity and exposes them to increased risks of bullying, harassment, and potential violence. Schools should be places-- should be places where children feel safe and supported, not environments where students are singled out, surveilled, and made to feel ashamed, simply for existing. This bill also undermines children's mental health. Transgender and gender expansive youth already face disproportionately high rates of anxiety, depression, and suicide risk. Policies that deny their identity or restrict access to basic facilities send a clear and damaging message that they are not accepted or worthy of dignity. That message does lasting harm to a child's sense of self and belonging, as evidence shows that the presence of anti-LGBTQ policies have led to an attempted suicide rate of 24% amongst LGBTQ youth. Importantly, LB730 does not address an actual problem affecting children's safety. There is no evidence that inclusive policies endanger students. Instead, this bill targets a small and vulnerable group of children using legislation to solve a problem that does not exist while creating new harms in its place. Nebraska's children deserve policies that protect their health, safety, and dignity, regardless of who they are. Laws should help young people grow, learn, and thrive, not make their daily lives more

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difficult or more dangerous. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to oppose LB730. Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Thank you very much for your testimony. Check to see if there's any questions from the committee. Senator Andersen.

**ANDERSEN:** Thank you, Chairwoman. And thank you for, thank you for being here, Mr. Reiter. I was curious about your, your, your statistic. How many LGBTQ-plus children are there in Nebraska, approximately?

**ERIC REITER:** I do not have that number for you, but I can find out.

**ANDERSEN:** Do you have an estimate? I mean, is it 500, 5,000?

**ERIC REITER:** I, I don't.

**ANDERSEN:** OK. I'm just kind of curious because the 24% amongst LJ-- I mean, keeping everything in context, right, 24% is a high number. OK, so you figure for K-12, within the state, we have about 370,000 kids.

**ERIC REITER:** For clarity, that statistic is from a national study. So 24% of LGBTQ youth in the United States.

**ANDERSEN:** OK. So that's not necessarily representative of Nebraska.

**ERIC REITER:** I mean, they're included in that number, but it's not specifically just Nebraska.

**ANDERSEN:** Yeah, but the culture's not the same here as in California and Florida and New York. So I, I mean, I, I think the number could be just specifically different here, but OK. Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Senator, Senator Hunt.

**HUNT:** Thank you. Thank you, Eric, for being here today. Do you think-- I mean, do you think it's plausible that the number could be higher in Nebraska than in California, for example, as my colleague said?

**ERIC REITER:** Absolutely, yes. And there aren't a ton of great, you know, surveys done for LGBTQ youth. There aren't lot of data points that specifically ask those questions, so it's kind of hard to find

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out. But I would agree. I would say it's probably much higher because of laws like this.

**HUNT:** Part of the reason that we don't have good data and are probably, in the future, going to have worse data, is because of measures like this that push people back into the closet, back into shadows, and make them afraid to reveal the truth of who they are, whether that's gay or trans, or even questioning, or just gender nonconforming in any way. Would you speak to that in any way?

**ERIC REITER:** Yeah. I, I will say, I work with young people all across the state. That's part of what we do at Voices. And they talk a lot about juvenile justice, climate change, you know, all sorts of things. They've never been concerned about a trans girl being in the restroom or locker room with them. That's not even something they talked about. So--

**HUNT:** And, and to clarify, you're not just working with trans kids. You work with--

**ERIC REITER:** No. We work with all--

**HUNT:** Voices for Children is--

**ERIC REITER:** All children.

**HUNT:** OK. Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Any other questions from the committee? Senator Lonowski.

**LONOWSKI:** Thank you, Chair Sanders. Thanks for your testimony. So what ex-- what exactly is like, the mission of Voices for Children? Can you help me out?

**ERIC REITER:** Yes. So we advocate for-- well, as I said, we exist to elevate the voices of children and youth, and to advance public policy that makes Nebraska the best place to grow up.

**LONOWSKI:** OK. Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Any other questions? See none. Thank you very much for your testimony this evening. Let's see, we've come to an end of our invitation list, but we have about time for 2 more, and then we'll be

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at the end of our hour for the opposition. So please, come forward. Good evening. Welcome.

**KIM ERWIN:** Thank you. Thank you for taking time today. My name is Kim Erwin, K-i-m E-r-w-i-n. I was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska. I'm a mother, daughter, and military veteran. Last time I spoke before this committee on LB89, I shared a story from 30 years ago, about the unintended consequences of this kind of legislation. That story mattered then, and it matters more now. I want-- I wanted to remind you, I have been misidentified in restrooms my entire life. As a child, kids teased me. As an adult, women have stared, gawked, whispered, and glared. I have been confronted in rest rooms more times than I can count. Most times, I've had to say aloud, "I am a woman." In fact, I was born a woman and still am a woman. I may express myself in masculine ways, but this simply is who I am. And until recently, I never took issue with it. What I take issue with now is the growing reality in America. I'm becoming less safe simply because of how I look. This bill does not exist in theory. It will be enforced in real spaces by real people, under stress, assumptions, biases, and fear. And that brings me back to my story I shared before. In '91, I was at a mall in Dubai with friends. We entered a women's restroom with 3 stalls. There were 3 Muslim women inside. They looked at us and left quickly. Less than 2 minutes later, 3 male police officers entered the restroom with their guns drawn and shouted, there's a man in here. I happened to be standing by the sinks, visible from the door, and I answered. Thankfully, I have a feminine voice. They reholstered their weapons, realized we were all women, and left. We were shaken and terrified. This is what happens when gender policing becomes law. So I ask you, how will this bill be enforced? Will enforcement rely on suspicion, appearances, accusations from strangers? Because it not-- will not only be transgender people who are targeted. It will be women like me. It will be girls who don't look feminine enough, just to one person. And, and if this becomes law here, what stops what happened to me in Dubai from happening here to young girls in America? Nothing. Nothing will stop armed, armed officers, emboldened civ-- civilians from confronting people in restrooms, from humiliating them. I never imagined that decades later, I'd be standing in my own country, in my state where I grew up, warning lawmakers that-- about the dangers of creating fear-based policies that invite harassment and violence. I served this nation in uniform for 12 years, swearing an oath to defend the Constitution and the freedoms it promises-- liberty, dignity,

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equal protection. It's heartbreaking to have to speak on this bill that attempts to narrow our freedoms, legitimize suspicion of one another, and place everyday people in harm's way. Laws like this do not create safety, they create permission. Permission to what? To question, to confront, to follow, to detain, to ultimately harm those who look different. These are not the values I, nor any veteran, served and defended. I urge you today to consider all the people in your lives. Your daughters, your sisters, your friends, who may one day be questioned, confronted or harmed simply because they do not look the way someone thinks they should. Thank you for your time.

**SANDERS:** Thank you for your time and your testimony. See if there are any questions, Senator Hunt.

**HUNT:** Thank you, Chairwoman. Thank you Kim, for being here. I, I was so moved by your testimony last year. I actually didn't forget it, and I probably think about it once every 2 weeks, you know. Like, I., I really remember the message that you shared, and I think that this is one of the most-- you know, I-- people know how I feel about this. You know, it's clear. But this is one of the most persuasive arguments to me, is that you cannot tell if someone is trans by looking at them. I don't think Senator Kauth would like to see Mr. Smith, right, Ryan Smith Sallans, Ryan Sallans in the bathroom. I think that-- you know what I'm saying?

**KIM ERWIN:** Yeah. It's real stuff.

**HUNT:** Even though according to her bill, that's where he would belong. And you've lived that your whole life. And I, I also just want to thank you for your sacrifice and commitment to this country, and most importantly, to the ideals of our Constitution that we're all here to stand up for. So thank you, for sharing that again.

**KIM ERWIN:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Are there any other questions or comments for Ms. Erwin?  
Senator Lonowski.

**LONOWSKI:** Thank you, Senator Sanders. Thank you for your service. Thanks for your testimony. So you actually had like, cops draw their weapons or had people holler, there's a man in here?

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**KIM ERWIN:** In Dubai, in the Middle East, absolutely.

**LONOWSKI:** How did you feel? I mean, were you--

**KIM ERWIN:** Scared.

**LONOWSKI:** Yeah.

**KIM ERWIN:** Scared. And I knew it was me because I've been misidentified in restaurants--

**LONOWSKI:** Yeah.

**KIM ERWIN:** --my entire life.

**LONOWSKI:** I just think this is-- kind of comes down to our entire argument, and I think of it as-- from the perspective of the seventh grader when she really believes-- or she knows it's a man dressed as a woman coming in, and I feel like she's going to traumatize, too. So one thing I haven't heard too many people say is how does it make those kids feel, and what is their traumatization. I mean, we're, we're dealing with an issue and we've got to think of everybody, not-- I mean, I understand that 0.5% may be trans. It might be a little higher, a little lower, but we also got to think of all the people that this affects that are expecting-- not expecting that in their, in their restroom, I guess, or locker room. So thank you.

**KIM ERWIN:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Any other questions or comments? See none. Thank you for your service, and thank you for your testimony. We have time for one more. Good evening. Welcome.

**MATTHEW JEFFREY:** Hello. Thank you. My name is Matthew Jeffrey, M-a-t-t-h-e-w J-e-f-f-r-e-y, and I am a fully intact male. I oppose LB730, due to the large number of questions it raises. This bill defines males and females by what reproductive cell they produce. What testing is required to determine what reproductive cells children produce? Boy and girl are defined as adolescent humans. Adolescence is a period between childhood and adulthood, which starts at puberty. Prepubescent students are not covered under this bill. What testing is required to determine if a child has started puberty or not? Who's paying for these unfunded mandates? What potential liability is going

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to be put on medical professionals that have to sign off on these assertions? What does it mean to be in the state of undress? Does changing socks and shoes count? How would this impact co-ed teams? How are locker rooms defined? What if students need to get-- to change or get ready in a classroom or on a bus? How should schools treat locker rooms that have restrooms within them? The bill allows females to use male locker rooms if a male isn't in there, but females aren't allowed to use male restrooms. If multiple events happen on the same day where home and away locker rooms and restrooms need to switch from male to female or female to male, what extra burden is being put on schools and facilities? What potential liability will schools have if signage isn't changed fast enough? How does allowing adults to have one-on-one access to children in locker rooms make them safe? This bill does not allow for fathers to help their daughters in women's restrooms or for mothers to help their sons in men's rest rooms. When I worked at a summer camp, I had a child tell me there's poop stuck in their butt and they didn't know what to do. If a child is hiding in a restroom because they are embarrassed or have a difficulty, do parents and caregivers of the opposite sex have to send in strangers to check on them? How broad is the definition for rendering emergency assistance? This is a bad bill without even considering the anti-trans culture war push behind it. I've lived here for almost 13 years. I've started a no-profit. I have given a kidney to a complete stranger. When my family talks about our future in Nebraska, the conversation isn't about property taxes, it's about bills like this. Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Thank you for your testimony. Are there any questions for Matthew Jeffery? I see none. Appreciate your testimony.

**MATTHEW JEFFREY:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Thank you for coming out. Thank you. Yes. We have actually one proponent left from earlier in the hour. So before we switch at the end of this, in, in a few minutes-- do you have that one proponent available? We can go ahead and do that, and then we'll just be on the opponent the rest of the evening. Yes. After this proponent, then we will take a 10-minute break. We will clean-- stop any testimonies, switch the rooms out, where we'll just do opponents for the rest of the evening.

**GUERECA:** Fill up the room at that time?

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**SANDERS:** Yes.

**GUERECA:** OK.

**SANDERS:** Yes. Good evening. The floor is yours. And I'm sorry we passed over a proponent last hour. The floor is yours.

**SCOTT THOMAS:** OK. My name is Scott Thomas, S-c-o-t-t T-h-o-m-a-s. I'm here representing Village in Progress and USIDHR. And I'm here today to talk to you about property taxes. No, just kidding. But we could be, though. So in Thomas Sowell's Basic Economics, in the first chapter, he talks about the principles of free market economy, and he talks about the competition over resources for various uses. And he says, the true cost of anything is its value in alternative uses. So I'm just making the point that our senators could be working on property tax relief right now. So I would encourage this committee to advance this bill out of committee and follow the federal government's guidance in the form of Executive Order 14168. And anybody that needs classic preschool training-- you know, we could go back to preschool, and you sit down, you use this room, you stand up, you use that one. Any questions for the senators?

**SANDERS:** Any other questions? Any questions for Scott Thomas? Senator Lonowski.

**LONOWSKI:** Thank you, Chair, and thanks for your testimony. I did not catch the group that you represent.

**SCOTT THOMAS:** Oh, the U.S. Institute of Diplomacy and Human Rights, and Village in Progress Nebraska.

**LONOWSKI:** OK. Thank you.

**SCOTT THOMAS:** Appreciate it. Any other questions?

**SANDERS:** Any questions? Any comments? See none. Thank you for your testimony.

**SCOTT THOMAS:** Thank you very much.

**SANDERS:** Thanks for waiting.

**SCOTT THOMAS:** Thank you.

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**SANDERS:** And this will take us to our-- end of our hour. So we are going to take a 10-minute break as a committee, and we will also clear the room and then reset the room for opponents.

[BREAK]

**ANDERSEN:** As the vice chair, I'll be taking-- I'll be working the 24. We have one proponent that's left? Please. So we will hear from the proponent, and then we will bring in the other opponents and continue on. Thank you, and welcome to the Government, and Military, Veteran Affairs Committee.

**HEATHER HALL:** Thank you. Good afternoon, Senators. My name is Heather Hall, H-e-a-t-h-e-r H-a-l-l, and I'm a strong proponent of LB730. And I'm not going to say anything that you didn't hear already with the other proponents. I'm just here as a mother, and as a voice for the young women and girls and for my daughter that will have to-- will be forced to share private spaces with males should this bill not pass. My daughter's in high school. She's a competitive athlete. She is extremely modest and would definitely not be comfortable sharing the locker room with anybody of the opposite sex. I don't know a single girl who I've talked to who is comfortable with that situation. Our girls should not be forced into a situation where they would be exposed while undressing, showering, and using restrooms, as well as being exposed to naked males. This is humiliating, demoralizing, and traumatizing for all of us. I've listened to the testimonies of Riley Gaines and other female athletes and their experiences of being exposed to naked men in their locker rooms and how traumatizing it was to them. Can you imagine what this would do to a young girl as young as 14 years of age? You know, we talk about, lately, it's all about mental health. Can you imagine the mental health issues that this could potentially cause on young girls? Allowing males into female spaces also puts our girls at risk for sexual assault. I'm not saying that it's going to happen, but I think that it will just put our girls at that much greater risk for it happening. I'm also concerned about boys and young men. They also have the right to their own privacy in the locker rooms, as well. Again, I don't have anything new to say to you guys, other than just-- we need to pass this commonsense bill. It's-- it is not discriminatory. People that identify as transgender students, they are already provided for. They are already accommodated for by using administrator's restrooms and single-occupancy restrooms for their-- sorry. They're already

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being taken care of. So as a mother and a citizen of this state, I strongly encourage you to pass LB730. And I also, just as a Christian, I want to say that God does not make mistakes. He does not put a person in the wrong body. Every person is fearfully and wonderfully made, and he sent his son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for everybody. He wants all to come to Him. And if you put your identity in Christ, that is more important than anything. It's the most important thing in the world, and he did that for everybody. So I thank you for your time and listening to me today, as a mother and someone who, who is concerned for our young women and girls. Thank you.

**ANDERSEN:** Thank you, Ms. Hall. Hold on a second. Are there any questions for Ms. Hall? Senator Lonowski.

**LONOWSKI:** Real quick. Thank you, Chair. And thank you for your testimony. I appreciate it. Does your daughter go to a public school now?

**HEATHER HALL:** She does.

**LONOWSKI:** So one thing that, that I always have thought about is do you, do you think like, allowing these to-- kind of things happen is what's forcing kids to either go to home school or to--

**HEATHER HALL:** Absolutely.

**LONOWSKI:** --private school? Do you think that contributes?

**HEATHER HALL:** Absolutely. Yes.

**LONOWSKI:** OK. All right. Thank you very much for your testimony.

**HEATHER HALL:** Yes. Thank you.

**ANDERSEN:** Any other questions? Ms. Hall, thank you very much for your time.

**HEATHER HALL:** Thank you for your time.

**ANDERSEN:** So at this point, Ms. Hall is going to depart. We're just going to pause for a couple of minutes. They're going to take and bring in as many of the opponents as possible. So we're going to fill the conference room up. So we got a couple minutes. So we're just

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going to wait until they're all done coming in so it's not disruptive. We'll be here till midnight.

**LONOWSKI:** Si, Senor.

**GUERECA:** We'll get this done in an hour and a half.

**ANDERSEN:** Hmm?

**GUERECA:** We'll get this done in an hour and a half.

**ANDERSEN:** 45 minutes times 3 tells me 135 minutes. [INAUDIBLE].

[BREAK].

**ANDERSEN:** --the Government, Military, and Veteran Affairs Committee.

**BRITTA TOLLEFSRUD:** Thank you. Hello, everybody. My name is Britta Tollefsrud, B-r-i-t-t-a T-o-l-l-e-f-s-r-u-d. I stand in opposition to LB730. I am a mental health clinician specializing in the care of gender diverse individuals. I am also a proud Nebraskan who left and decided to come back, which is why LB730 is such a concern to me, both as a mental health clinician and as a Nebraskan. So over the past 4 years, we continue to watch this slow creep of governmental overreach, propagandized by a senator with an agenda. Instead of focusing on the monumental budget crisis our state is in, we are here yet again, as said before, arguing over who gets to use which bathroom. This bill is antithetical to the Nebraskan values that pulled me back home. This bill assumes a false premise built on fear, based off severely biased misinformation. Using fear to alienate a group of people is not new to our American story. Separate but equal caused great harm, and so will this. We can look at other states as examples. Utah passed a similar bill in 2024, and since then the bill has come under legal scrutiny and faces continued political backlash from the public. The office tasked with overseeing complaints, the state auditor, stated an increase in frivolous complaints-- up to 10,000-- only one year after the law was put into effect. Not a single complaint was found legitimate, as stated by the State Auditor of Utah. Who's footing the bill for the time it takes to review those 10,000 complaints? Who's to say we won't have a similar response to this bill? Florida, too, passed a bill like LB730 in 2023. And currently, as of 2026, Florida's Attorney General is now threatening legal action against a privately-owned gym. This shows how "common sense" legislation quickly

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devolves into that slow creep of governmental overreach and discriminatory practices subject to further costly litigation. From a mental health perspective, both Utah and Floridian and youth report high levels of mental health needs, particularly in Florida. However, Utah took action, and in May of 2025 released a report from the Utah Department of Health and Human Services finding that gender-affirming care leads to positive mental health outcomes for transgender youth. Let us learn from Utah and save Nebraskans from the web of litigation and frivolous work. Instead, let's focus on improving mental health outcomes for Nebraskans of all ages, without alienation or discrimination. So I hear legislators signal that they want people to move to Nebraska. They want businesses and college grads to move here and stay. These bills do a disservice to that initiative. Do you think college grads and young professionals intend to stay with this kind of exclusionary legislation? If people continue to move away, how will that impact business growth? I have watched as families move away from their Nebraskan home of many years in direct response to this legislation. No one wants to be here today sitting in front of you. We are asking you to legislate on property tax relief, as was said before, balancing our budget, even perhaps answering to the stark need of access to mental health care across our state. This is an opportunity to learn from the past, from others. It is my sincere hope that you keep this bill in committee, and instead spend valuable legislative time where we need it-- on a balanced budget.

**ANDERSEN:** Thank you very much. Are there any questions? Yes, Senator Hunt.

**HUNT:** Thank you. Thanks for being here, Britta. Do you know any Nebraska families that have moved out of this state because of anti-trans legislation?

**BRITTA TOLLEFSRUD:** Absolutely.

**HUNT:** Yeah. OK. Thank you.

**ANDERSEN:** Any other questions? Senator Cavanaugh.

**J. CAVANAUGH:** Thank you, Vice Chair. Thanks for being here, Ms. Tollefsrud. This 10,000 frivolous complaints in, in Utah, can you just elaborate on that a little bit?

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**BRITTA TOLLEFSRUD:** Yeah. So based on the Utah law, the state auditor was the one overseeing the complaints. And they set up a database of sorts for people to make comments to, again, police gender in bathrooms. So these are public individuals who would reach out and send complaints. And that was overseen by the state auditor, who, in a tongue-in-cheek way, called himself the highest paid bathroom monitor, of which the 10,000 complaints have-- neither have-- none of them showed up as legitimate or cause for any concern.

**J. CAVANAUGH:** Thank you.

**ANDERSEN:** Any other questions? Seeing none, thank you very much for your time.

**BRITTA TOLLEFSRUD:** Thank you very much.

**ANDERSEN:** Just for everybody's awareness, since everybody is new to this hearing-- not, not you. Just, just-- I'll, I'll run through a couple of the introductory comments that we normally do at the very beginning of a hearing. If you plan to testify, there's green sheets in the back room. Please fill it out and give it to one of the pages whenever you come up. If you want to-- if you have handouts, please bring 12 copies. If you don't have enough, the pages will make extra copies for you. Please silence or turn off your cell phones at this time. Frivolous outbursts and applause are not permitted in the hearing. Such behavior can be cause to have you leave the hearing. Because of the number of people here, we're planning to run until 5:30. At 5:30, we'll take a short break and then we'll reconvene. When you come up here, please make sure you tell us your first and last name and then spell your first and last name so it can be accurately transcribed for the record. We're running a 3-minute light. When you start, it will be on green, and then yellow, and then red is when your time is expired. You may have extra time if one of the committee members actually asks you questions. That doesn't count as your time. Then you can feel free to continue on. I think that's it. Any-- anything I missed? OK. Next testifier. Welcome to Government, Military, Veteran Affairs Committee.

**RYAN SALEM:** Hi. Thanks. My name is Ryan Salem, spelled R-y-a-n S-a-l-e-m. I'm a 27-year public high school teacher and head coach here in Nebraska. I want to, of course, recognize my fellow championship coach, Senator Lonowski. I'm here speaking to you today

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in opposition to LB730. My testimony is my own. LB730 is an unnecessary bill. I'm in high-- I am in high school hallways and locker rooms every day as a full-time teacher and coach. Students are simply using the locker room to change for practice and secure their after-school items. They're using bathrooms to relieve themselves and then go to class. In my school, students have a mere 6 minutes for a passing period to use the bathroom. Time is short and school bathrooms are crowded. Please believe me when I say, LB730 is a law looking for a problem. LB730 risks overlegislating 2 spaces that are already supervised by school staff. And let's be honest, it's trans kids who are more likely to be harassed in school restrooms than anyone else. So now for the real cost of LB730. This bill makes it nearly impossible for trans kids who have survived last year's trans sports ban to continue to attempt to play sports in school. LB730 will out some trans athletes by forcing them into a locker room that may not match their gender presentation. These trans kids may choose to finally not participate in high school sports. Other gender nonconforming and trans students may not want to risk the gender dysphoria of being forced by this law into a locker room that does not match their identity, again, finally choosing to not participate in sports for their own mental well-being. And this is wrong. Denying trans youth the opportunity to play sports denies these kids the lasting benefits of being on a team. It denies them the love and camaraderie of their teammates that all kids should have the opportunity to experience. The connection between athletes and their teammates as well as their coaches can become the through line for success in the classroom and beyond high school. By denying access to locker rooms, that denies the powerful life lessons for trans kids and young adults to have, and we all know that's wrong. Quickly, I'd like to ask the committee if they were ever on a sports team as a kid. What lessons did they learn? Did it teach them that the team was more important than themselves? Did they make a friend? Did they possibly bond and make a lifelong friend with someone on their team? Trans kids deserve the right to learn these lessons, too, and trans kids deserve to also have fun playing sports like so many of us did. I want you to know that I see that joy and fun every day at our practices, on the school bus, at team dinners, and at competitions. I ask you to allow trans and gender diverse kids these same opportunities. Trans joy is real, and I'd like you to oppose LB730. And I'd be happy to take

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questions, as-- from someone who functions in a public school setting every day.

**ANDERSEN:** Thank you, Coach Salem. Are there any questions for the coach? Senator Hunt..

**HUNT:** Thank you, Senator Andersen. What-- are you high school?

**RYAN SALEM:** Yes.

**HUNT:** OK. Do you hear a lot of kids scared, worried, fearful of trans people in the school-- their peers?

**RYAN SALEM:** No. I mean, not at all. And in fact, the, the point that was made earlier is true in my school. Whether or not someone knows another student is trans is nearly undistinguishable. I have students who have transitioned during their high school years, and other students know that they've transitioned. I have students that have transitioned so early in their life that they are known by their chosen gender. And so bathroom spaces and locker room spaces function without any knowledge of what this bill would have to out them for.

**HUNT:** It would be weird if they switched.

**RYAN SALEM:** It-- I mean--

**HUNT:** It would be more disruptive to the school, potentially.

**RYAN SALEM:** It would absolutely be a what are you doing in here, get out of here moment, because they're known by their chosen gender, because that also matches their gender expression.

**HUNT:** So let me ask as a queer kid from the '90s, not a big problem with trans kids in high school, even the jocks?

**RYAN SALEM:** Right. No.

**HUNT:** Even the preps?

**RYAN SALEM:** Right. Great ch--

**HUNT:** Even the populars?

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**RYAN SALEM:** And the populars.

**HUNT:** OK.

**RYAN SALEM:** Yeah, I mean--

**HUNT:** They've evolved.

**RYAN SALEM:** It's weird-- good job. It's really weird. Kids, kids let other kids stay in their lane. Because they're all having the same experience, which is I don't want to mess up, I want friends to like me, and I want to be who I am. And that doesn't matter whether they're straight, or trans, or cis, or-- and so the amount of respect that kids show each other I think would be inspiring to the panel.

**HUNT:** Thank you.

**ANDERSEN:** Any other questions? Coach, do you want to ask Coach a question?

**RYAN SALEM:** We can just talk about coaching if you want.

**LONOWSKI:** Thank you, Senator Andersen. Thanks for your testimony. Are you at a Class A school?

**RYAN SALEM:** I am.

**LONOWSKI:** OK. And I just think there's some differences there. Just--

**RYAN SALEM:** Oh, sure.

**LONOWSKI:** In a Class A school, I don't know what you have per, per class, 600, 700, 800 kids, depending.

**RYAN SALEM:** Oh, yeah. We have about 2,000 in our high school. Yeah.

**LONOWSKI:** Whereas out west, every class has 30. I'm not sure what I'm getting at, but I mean, everybody knows everybody's business out there, whether they have transed or, or will go through, or whether they're gay, whether they're straight, everybody knows everybody. And so, so I think that-- like, the situation's a little bit different. I know of schools that have already created a third bathroom. And some people aren't happy with that because they said, well, that's not full inclusion, even though it might be giving a bathroom to a child or a

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person that's going through transition. So I, I know everyone's situation is different and every situation is different, but I appreciate your testimony.

**RYAN SALEM:** Thanks. And I just-- because you sparked this on the teacher side, I think the bill would say that each school district will make their own policy, and so you're right. We would see different policies across the straight-- the state. And I think that's another thing to question about the bill is, so which administrator or teachers or new hire would be in charge of the bathrooms? And it could just, you know, start to unravel from there.

**LONOWSKI:** No. I, I, I agree with that. I think one of the, one of the problems there could be lawsuits.

**RYAN SALEM:** Right.

**LONOWSKI:** If my team comes to your school and plays your team, and then all of a sudden they're approached-- not approached, but in a locker room where things are different.

**RYAN SALEM:** Right.

**LONOWSKI:** And they're like, wait a minute, this wasn't what I was ready for, or signed up for, or agree with, or whatever the case. But I think that's why we want to, you know, just be fluid across the or, or consistent across the, the spectrum, but thank you.

**RYAN SALEM:** Right. Thanks, Coach.

**ANDERSEN:** Any other questions? Thank you for your time, Coach. Next testifier. Ladies, welcome to the Government, Military, Veteran Affairs Committee.

**SARAH CAL:** Hi. My name is Sarah Cal, S-a-r-a-h C-a-l, and I am in opposition to LB730. I am a lifelong Nebraskan and a former public school teacher of 15 years and a current counselor specializing in the care of gender diverse individuals. I am deeply concerned by this legislation, as it will be costly, intrusive, and harmful to the Nebraskans that I serve. LB730 defines sex solely based on reproductive anatomy, without proposing any verification procedures or providing guidance on how accusations and disputes will be resolved. Enforcement would inevitably rely on speculation, profiling, and

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invasive questioning. That is not an environment which protects the safety of Nebraskans. For this bill to function at all, it would require access to private medical information to verify a person's sex. Yet there is no policy to protect this private information, limit how it is shared, or safeguard against its misuse. This exposes Nebraskans to serious and unacceptable privacy violations. LB730 places the full burden of enforcement on schools and agencies. It would require them to draft new policies, train staff, and investigate accusations, all while exposing these institutions to significant legal liability when disputes inevitably arise, all for a policy with zero measurable impact on professional ability or academic outcomes. LB730 applies to public and postsecondary institutions as well as visitors, meaning this would apply to anyone attending a Nebraska football game at Memorial Stadium. Are tens of thousands of football fans expected to carry proof of their sex assigned at birth in case they're challenged while in line at the bathroom? Most urgently, LB730 will cause real and measurable harm to transgender and gender-expansive Nebraskans. There is no credible evidence that allowing transgender people to use restrooms aligned with their gender identity harms women or girls. What is supported by research is that restricting restroom access significantly increases the risk of violence against transgender people up to 1.2 times for transgender boys and up to 2.4-- 2.5 times for transgender girls. These policies do not prevent harm. They create it. At a time when Nebraska faces a projection of \$471 million budget shortfall, LB730 imposes an expensive and unscientific mandate that diverts resources away from education and public safety while increasing the risk for every Nebraskan. I urge the committee to not advance LB730.

**ANDERSEN:** Thank you, Ms. Cal. Any questions? Seeing none, thank you very much for your time. Next testifier.

**GLENN SIMONSEN:** Good afternoon. Good afternoon. My name is Glenn Simonsen, G-l-e-n-n S-i-m-o-n-s-e-n. I stand in favor of this bill. I'm a longtime OPS parent and Omaha Public School staff educator. Worked for the migrant education program. I've heard it said this afternoon that there have always been transgender persons. And yes, that may be true, but I think we should recognize what's entirely new. In all of human history, that is, the claim that a person born with male appendage is actually a woman. It's only the tiniest proportion of human history when anyone has entertained this absurdity. Senator Kauth and other speakers this afternoon have listed numerous

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documented examples of serious consequences from this new ideology has produced. Yes, they're serious. Stunningly, these traumatic and abusive events in our schools apparently are shrugged off by some, some people. It's been said today, we, we live in a post-truth world with a new definition of truth, where truth is no longer objective but subjective, depending on one's politics or ideology. Truth no longer need correspond with the reality that we see around us. My truth and your truth need not be congruent. Common mantra we hear today is trans women are women. This is absurd. And I'll go to-- and the-- I know the Bible has been used this afternoon. I'm going to go to an atheist, the 18th century French atheist philosopher, Francois-Marie Voltaire, and he said something like this. If you can get people to accept or believe in an absurdity, then you will be able to make them commit violence. A sadly prescient observation. Let's, Nebraska, embrace objectivity and science and truth. Thank you very much.

**ANDERSEN:** Thank you. Any questions? Sir, thank you very much for your time. Next testifier. Welcome to the Government, Military, and Veteran Affairs Committee.

**KATARYNA MORTON:** Hi. My name is Kataryna Morton, K-a-t-a-r-y-n-a M-o-r-t-o-n. I received my bachelor's degree in psychology and communication studies, and I'm currently pursuing a master's in social work. So as a personal advocate for the community, I'm here to testify in opposition to LB7-- LB730. While this bill claims to create clarity by restricting bathroom and locker room use based on one's biological sex, it ultimately causes confusion, ambiguity, and harm, in addition to not addressing a real or documented problem. I have a transgender sister and I'm extremely concerned how this bill would affect her and many other transgender, gender nonconforming, nonbinary, gender fluid, agender and intersex people. She shouldn't have to live her life in fear or harassment, as she would be forced to do if you were to enact this bill. First, this bill does not address the bullying or harassment that may come as a result of these restrictions. There are no protections for students or staff who may be targeted, questioned, or reported under this policy. This policy does not include any anti-bullying protections or guidelines which could make these environments even more unsafe for those affected. Second, while this bill targets transgender and nonbinary individuals, it harms extent further by relying on rigid and stigmatized perceptions of gender for enforcement. Transgen-- transgender people would be placed at constant risk of being questioned, reported, or confronted, confronted, simply

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for existing in public spaces. This invites invasive scrutiny of people's bodies and identities leading to humiliation, fear, and psychological harm. At the same time, any person who does not conform to very narrow gender norms may be targeted, creating an environment of suspicion and anxiety in spaces that should be safe and accessible to all. And third, this bill is not needed to protect privacy or safety. Multiple research reviews have found no evidence that making transgender people use rest rooms associated with their "biological sex" increases safety risks for cisgender individuals. In addition, it's been found that after passing identity inclusive nondiscrimination laws, there was no increase in criminal incidents in restrooms or locker rooms. So if safety were the real concern, laws would not focus on restricting the rights of specific groups, but rather focusing on real legislative issues. Passing LB730 does not address a real problem and therefore would not make these public spaces safer. Instead, it would create conclus-- confusion, increased harassment, expose many individuals to unneeded scrutiny, and fail to address bullying or safety in a meaningful way. The bill introduces risk and harm without solving a documented problem. So therefore, I urge the committee to oppose LB370 and to instead prioritize legislation that is grounded in data and contributes to the well-being of all students and community members. You should all, you should all be focusing on policies that truly protect privacy without enabling discrimination or cruel treatment as this bill would do. Thank you for your time.

**ANDERSEN:** Thank you, Ms. Morton. Are there any questions? Senator Guereca.

**GUERECA:** Thank you for your [INAUDIBLE]. Thank you, Mr. Vice Chairman. Thank you, again, for being here. Where are you studying your Masters of Social Work?

**KATARYNA MORTON:** At the University of Nebraska-Omaha, and I got my undergrad at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**GUERECA:** Great. Thank you for being here.

**KATARYNA MORTON:** Thank you.

**ANDERSEN:** Any other questions? Thank you very much for your time. Welcome to the Government, Military, Veteran Affairs.

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**KENNETH MORTON:** Thank you. My name is Kenneth Morton, K-e-n-n-e-t-h M-o-r-t-o-n, and I'm here to oppose LB730. Well, here we are again. 4 years of this. I wrote down 3. I didn't realize it was 4. Are you tired of this? Because I can guarantee the people, the [INAUDIBLE] behind me are tired of this, the people that might still be in the hallway, people that have gathered in the Rotunda, people who have sat in the gallery listening to hours and hours and hours of debate are tired of this. But you know how we feel. You know the overwhelming number of opposition comments on-- how-- number of oppos-- opposition comments online feel. But that's not actually what I want to talk about with my time. I want to talk about the author of this bill, and I put author in air quotes, because we all know she didn't come up with this stuff on her own. Senator Kauth claims that she is trying to protect kids and protect women. But I think she really did give up the game this session, not only with launching multiple bills in a session that desperately needs to focus on fiscal issues, but with her recently introduced LR301. As you hopefully are probably all aware, LR301 is a study Senator Kauth has commissioned to study whether raising a child with a gender identity that differs from their sex at birth constitutes child abuse. This is and always has been the end game. It was never about protecting women's sports. It was never about protecting anyone. It's about trying to erase the existence of trans people from this state and ultimately, this country. Senator Kauth almost-- also makes it clear that she believes elected officials-- not medical experts, not people in government agencies-- should be in charge of decisions driving medical care and access. It's crystal clear to see where this is going. You all have a chance to make this go away, or you have a chance to be complicit in her never-ending cycle of the targeting of one of our most marginalized and most targeted groups. I know I said we're all tired of this, and some of us have spent hour upon hour between talking to senators, town halls, forums, support groups, hearings, listening to debate. All that takes away from our families that we want to enjoy time with. But we'll keep doing it. We'll keep fighting because it's our kids' lives on the line. And to us, that's infinitely more valuable than some politician trying to score political points with moms of liberty. Thank you.

**ANDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Morton. Are there any questions? Senator Guereca.

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**GUERECA:** Mr. Morton, I'm assuming by the last name, I don't mean to be-- make an assumption, but the previous testifier was your daughter?

**KENNETH MORTON:** She was. Yep.

**GUERECA:** That means you, you have a transgender daughter?

**KENNETH MORTON:** Yes.

**GUERECA:** I assume you're very protective and love your daughter, and that's what drove you to be here?

**KENNETH MORTON:** Of course. Yes.

**GUERECA:** Well, thank you for being here. It's really important to your daughter.

**ANDERSEN:** Any other questions? Thank you for your time.

**JESSIE McGRATH:** Good afternoon, members of the committee. My name is Jessie McGrath, J-e-s-s-i-e M-c-G-r-a-t-h, and I am a resident of LD 28, here in Lincoln. I'm here to express my firm opposition to LB730, and Kathleen Kauth's continued unnatural obsession with other people's genitalia. Why are you so obsessed, Kathleen, about trans people that you feel you have to make their lives as miserable as possible?

**ANDERSEN:** Excuse me. Ms. McGrath, please address your comments to the committee, not to Senator Kauth. And confine it to the bill, not an attack on Senator Kauth.

**JESSIE McGRATH:** Just, just in relationship to this bill, Senator. Why are nationalist Christians feel the need to legislate away diversity in our communities? Diversity is a beautiful thing. It's what makes this country great. None of the examples given by Senator Kauth in her opening statement today-- and there were a lot of them, dating back to the 1990s. And yet, not a single one of those incidents involved someone here in Nebraska. If you have to search over and over and over again to find cases that don't even involve transgender individuals, to raise that as a, as a basis for your legislation, there is something deadly wrong. Now, the far right has spent an inordinate amount of time and money over the course of the last 10 years to attack trans people. We're talking multi-billions of dollars. You watch Fox News. How many trans people do you see on those shows? You

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don't see any. You see again and again and again right-wing talking heads talking about the evils and the dangers of transgender people. Well, I am a transgender woman. I've been living as a transgender woman for the last 11 years. I worked as a prosecutor for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office for 37 years. I transitioned 10 years ago, and I was promoted because they recognized the excellence of my character and who I am. There has been so much that is being said to vilify individuals who are trans. And in fact, what they're, they're doing at this point is trying to eradicate trans people totally, and that's what the purpose of these bills are. It's what the purpose of the President's executive orders are. It's the purpose of the President kicking very well-qualified transgender service members out of the military and wanting to now take away our Second Amendment rights because they think that we are somehow unworthy of having those rights. That is plainly wrong. Many of us have served in the military, myself included. I'm a veteran of the Nebraska National Guard, and I am very proud of that. I'm a graduate of the University of Nebraska and the University of Nebraska College of Law, and I'm very proud of that. But this direct action against trans people goes beyond what they say it is for protection. It is not protection. It is an attack on our ability to lead a regular life. And Senator Lonowski and Senator Meyer, I would love to answer those questions that you asked some of the other folks, if you want to go with that.

**ANDERSEN:** Thank you very much for your time. Are there any questions?

**F. MEYER:** They're already on public record, so.

**JESSIE McGRATH:** Oh, well, I, I know what a woman is. It's an adult human female, which is what I am. Legally.

**ANDERSEN:** Seeing no questions, thank you very much for your time. Next testifier, please. Welcome to the committee, sir.

**RON CUNNINGHAM:** Thank you. Senator Andersen, Ron Cunningham, R-o-n C-u-n-n-i-n-g-h-a-m, representing myself in opposition. You've got a difficult job some days, but you have colleagues and constituents. Some have all the answers. They seem to know everything. It's either right or wrong, black or white, liberal or conservative. I'm here today because I want all of the 300 and approximately 50,000 kids in Nebraska public schools to feel safe when they use a restroom. Over

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the past few years, you've seen my face here at these hearings. I've sat in on several of them and they stress fear. That's what the emphasis was. Sadly, that continues not only in Nebraska now, but across our national political scene. I too get frustrated when people don't look like I think they should look, they don't say things like I think they should say, and they don't conform to my beliefs. But I would assume we've all shared a restroom with a trans and didn't even know it. But if it's wrong for a child to use a restroom they identify with, then maybe it's time we have all-gender restrooms. If we can spend millions of dollars building multiple gymnasiums at each school site, we can easily afford gender rest rooms. I think young people accept change much quicker, much better than their parents and grandpa and grandma. How can any student possibly experience success if they have to fear using a restroom that you choose for them? I feel a bit like I have a little bit of common sense that the Governor so often stresses. Protecting young females from males in the restroom seems to be his major concern. I'm more concerned about protecting all girls who are texting or talking on their cell phones while driving, who are sexually or physically or psychologically abused by anyone, who are bullied by anyone anytime. Common sense tells me that that's a greater concern. If LB730 becomes the law, will there be problems? Absolutely. Will there be very sad tragedies? What do you think? LB730 is an exclusionary bill whose sole purpose, sole purpose is to provide another legal means to dehumanize trans. Why do we want to do that? Everyone, I repeat, everyone, including you, and me should have the right to care for our body in safety and privacy. That is not an exclusive right just for those supporting LB370 [SIC]. Thank you very much.

**ANDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Cunningham. Are there any questions? Thank you, sir, for your time.

**RON CUNNINGHAM:** Thank you.

**ANDERSEN:** Next testifier. Welcome to the committee.

**TAYLOR BOGUS:** Hi. My name is Taylor Bogus. That's T-a-y-l-o-r B-o-g-u-s, and I oppose LB730. I am so tired of coming here year after year to fight for my son to be able to do normal things-- go to the bathroom. The lawmakers introducing and supporting these bills, I feel like have-- and the people who were proponents have a cari-- caricature of what a trans person is. And like it's been said here,

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you don't know who is trans and who isn't. They're just everyday people. And you know, it's been spoken about men in girls' bathrooms. That's not what's happening. These are girls. These are children. These are kids. These are girls in boys' bathrooms. These are kids and children who just want to use the restroom behind closed stall doors and not be outed and not be harassed. This legislative body has a very important job to be problem solvers, to solve problems for the state of Nebraska. Instead, you know, we're here again, solving for a problem that doesn't exist. We haven't had like first-person examples of issues and incidents here in Nebraska. But I can tell you, as a mom-- I have 3 kids in elementary school, 3 sons, and my middle son is transgender-- that there would be a lot of problems caused by this. What we were able to do is work closely with the school to decide what was gonna work best with our circ-- circumstance. So as it was said, I think by-- earlier, it's not a one-size-fits-all. And so, for our situation, we were able to determine what was going to be best. My child has used the bathroom since kindergarten because he transitioned very young, and we have never had one issue. But he's not out to his classmates. They don't know. And that's just, you know, they're, they're-- the students that-- a boy they, they go to school with every day. So I want to hear from Senator Kauth and any senators who support and move this bill forward. What is the solution going to be when we see the problems with my son, who has used the bathroom since kindergarten-- he's now in third grade-- now using the girls' bathroom? Who are going to answer those calls, those emails? Are you going to set up classes, trying to teach these kids what transgender is and what that means? What is the solution here? And I will tell you, the, the schools don't want this, the administrators don't want this, the schools don't want this, and really is an overreach to be making these decisions by schools. It should be made by the school districts, the schools, and the people who are protecting and educating our kids. Thank you. Happy to answer any questions.

**ANDERSEN:** Thank you, Ms. Bogus. Are there any questions for the testifier? Seeing no questions, thank you very much. Please. Welcome to the Government, Military, Veteran Affairs Committee.

**SEAN HILL:** Vice Chair, Counsel, members of the Government, Military, and Veteran Affairs Committee, my name is Sean Hill, and I appear today as a U.S. citizen, empowered by this Constitution with tremendous power.

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**ANDERSEN:** Sir, can you please spell out your first and last name?

**SEAN HILL:** My name is Sean, S-e-a-n, Hill, H-i-l-l.

**ANDERSEN:** Thank you.

**SEAN HILL:** Additionally, 3 years of litigating APA violations in our federal district, so pardon me for condescending. I'm an expert of my lived experience. And in my practice, I have the privilege to serve transgender citizens who cannot be here today. For all my trans colleagues, I have understood that some of us may even be transitioning from man to better man. A man is here to act in good faith in the betterment of one another, to be faithful stewards of the institutions of us. When trans persons whom are working 8-plus hours a day on first, second, and third shifts, participating meaningfully in the culture, arts, and society are unable to effectively advocate for themselves or effect change in the political system, the levels of scrutiny must rise. For these are persons who have been disill-- who have a disillusion from their power. Ensuring their liberties are protected does not take away liberties of the proponents. The 19th Amendment does not remove men's right to vote. Obergefell does not remove the right for a straight couple to marry. Bostock does not take away Title VII protections from the proponents. On belief, the modifications LB370, Section 4, aims to make would erect undue hurdles for trans persons to seek judicial relief through adjudication procedures under the APA-- hurdles that would rise to the level of constitutional discrimination of a protected class. Therefore, I approach the committee today to show my opposition to LB370, Section 4, on record. I thank you for your civility, and I have yielded to questions.

**ANDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Hill. Are there any questions for Mr. Hill? Seeing none, thank you for your time, sir. Welcome to the Government, Military, Veterans Affairs Committee.

**REBECCA WELLS:** Good afternoon. My name is Rebecca Wells. That's R-e-b-e-c-c-a W-e-l-l-s, and I'm here in opposition to LB730. And so many people have testified already on so many issues, and I'll just highlight a few of those. A mandate should not be established without a means of enforcing it. And how would it be enforced? Is an official going to be stationed outside each bathroom in public spaces? And how are they going to determine or are they going to de-- determine who

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can go into which bathroom? Are citizens going to have to carry their birth certificates around with them? Will people be asked what their sex is? And I've heard over and over there's 2 sexes, male and female. But I will tell you, as a health professional, there are a very small number of people-- it's about 1.7 out of 100-- that are born that are intersex, babies that are born that look like a female externally and later it's determined by chromosomal analysis that they, they have chromosomes of a male and possibly have testes inside. And so sometime-- you know-- and it can-- so, so it's, it's not always male and female. Most of the time it is. But the problems with this bill are, again, enforcing it and making-- and, and I think it's just difficult to do. But I'm here more than anything because this bill is personal to me. I have a family member that's transgender. And if they aren't welcome in Nebraska, I don't feel welcome in Nebraska, even though I've lived here my whole life. So I strongly urge you to listen to all the good testimony we've had and don't advance this bill, please. I was here last year and listened to all of the testimony. I believe last year, there were only 4 people that testified in support, and there were-- and, you know, I-- more than I could count that testified against it, so I'm sorry to see it back here. I know Senator Merv Rip-- Riepe is the one that insisted it not be included in the Sports and Spaces. But again, here it is again. And I strongly urge you, don't advance it out of committee. I just think it's wrong.

**ANDERSEN:** Thank, thank you, Ms. Wells. Hold on. Let's see if there are any questions.

**REBECCA WELLS:** Oh, sure.

**ANDERSEN:** Do we have any questions for Ms. Wells? No questions. Thank you very much for your time. Welcome to Government, Military, Veteran Affairs Committee.

**LORI ASHMORE:** Thank you. My name is Lori Ashmore, L-o-r-i A-s-h-m-o-r-e. So here we go again for the fourth straight year in a row with anti-trans legislation. 2023, legislation tried to take health care away from trans folks, but instead we got a narrow pathway. In '24, they attempted to ban trans folks from bathrooms and playing sports that aligned with their identity, which didn't pass. In 2025, legislation came back for bathrooms and playing sports, but only got sports. So here we are in 2026, now with 3 anti-trans bills. So now the legislation is trying to take bathrooms away again, which is

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why we're here right now, completely taking our narrow pathway for health care with LB732, and malpractice rules for providers with LB731. These legislative bills are aimed at erasing trans existence from public life. This is a group of people that make up 1% of the population. This goes beyond discrimination. These legislative bills meet the early to mid warning indicators of genocidal process against transgender folks. Genocide is not mass killing. The definition of genocide is the eradication of a group people from existence. The United States is using a systemic process to eliminate trans folks as a recognized group of people by law. A legal genocide-- laws that make trans folks not exist on paper and then use that paper to control their lives, so IDs that no longer reflect their gender marker, limiting access to health care, school policies that affect their names, pronouns, what bathrooms they use, and if they're able to play sports, also narrowing the definition of sex to male and female, invalidating their identity. All of these things are pushing trans folks out of employment situation, housing, education, health care, travel safety, and family stability, all without a single act of violence. Please stop. Please stop bringing havoc to our lives. Please stop with all this anti-trans legislation and focus on real issues that address the majority of Nebraskans, like property tax, education funding, and health care for everyone. If you would like to know more about genocide prevention, there is the institute at the bottom of your paper that you can look at. Thank you.

**ANDERSEN:** Thank you, Ms. Ashmore. Are there questions for Ms. Ashmore? Seeing none, thank you very much for your time. Ms. Eggers, welcome to the Government, Military, Veterans Affairs Committee. Jen Day, sorry. Welcome to the committee.

**JEN DAY:** Good evening, Vice Chair Andersen and members of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. My name is Jen Day, that's J-e-n D-a-y, and I am here on behalf of the Women's Fund of Omaha to testify in strong opposition to LB730. It is our primary duty to advocate for policies that advance gender equity, particularly for women and girls in Nebraska. LB730 purports to protect women and girls from invasions of privacy and sexual violence, when, in actuality, it puts women and girls at greater risk of these violations and unfairly targets transgender Nebraskans for a problem for which they are not responsible. Proponents of bills like LB730 try to conflate the use of restrooms by transgender people with sexual violence and often co-opt the language of the gender equity movement

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to protect women and girls while conveniently ignoring the stark reality of sexual assault. According to data from the U.S. Department of Justice, 99% of sexual violence is perpetrated by cisgender men. Sexual violence, including everything from harassment to assault, is overwhelmingly a problem perpetrated by cisgender men. Our solutions should reflect this fact, not erroneously and unfairly implicate transgender people when this is, statistically speaking, a clear problem with cisgender men. Additionally, a study published in the journal Pediatrics found that transgender and nonbinary children who were subject to school, restroom, and locker restrictions, like those in LB730, had a 36% higher chance of becoming a victim of sexual assault compared with-- compared to those without restrictions. You're right to want to protect women and girls from sexual violence, as it is a pervasive and complex issue. Unfortunately, bills like LB730 will not only make the problem of gender-based violence worse, but they also actively uphold the structures of systemic oppression that create danger and violence towards women and girls in the first place. Because it is your job to make informed decisions about public policy based on data, we ask you to consider these research-backed options for addressing the problem of sexual violence as presented by the Division of Violence Prevention of the CDC: building, teaching, and modeling healthy relationship skills and social-emotional learning, including teaching age-appropriate comprehensive sex education, especially empathy, consent, bodily autonomy, and agency; teaching and modeling healthy language around gender, and avoiding misogynistic, sexist, and oppressive rhetoric that enforces rigid gender roles and exacerbates the problem of male violence towards women and girls; and creating strong organizational policies around harassment that increase accountability for perpetrators and increase safety and a healthy climate in workplaces and schools. Knowing that LB730 will only increase the problem of gender-based violence in Nebraska and that there are many other solutions that are actually effective in addressing sexual violence, the Women's Fund of Omaha respectfully asks that you do not advance this bill from committee. And with that, I'm happy to answer any questions.

**ANDERSEN:** Thank you very much, Ms. Day. Are there any questions? Thank you very much for your time.

**JEN DAY:** Thank you.

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**ANDERSEN:** So just so everybody knows, we're going to run until 5.30. So we've got time for 2 more, and then we'll take a break. Please, welcome to the Government, Military, and Veteran Affairs Committee.

**JENNE LOZANO:** My name is Jenne Lozano, that's J-e-n-n-e L-o-z-a-n-o. I live in Wahoo, which is District 23. Jared Storm is my senator. So members of the committee, I have been testifying regularly over the past few years on various iterations of this bill. I have presented personal and professional testimony with diplomacy and have extended an authentic invitation to future dialogue. All of this has fallen on deaf ears. There have been hours and hours of testimony by experts in their field for each iteration of this bill. I'm sure y'all remember last year when we were here until midnight. Doctors, educators, social workers, therapists, clergy, and more have given irrefutable evidence that bills such as these don't protect people and, in fact, put an already vulnerable population at greater risk. But you already know this. You cannot claim that you don't know the harm this will cause. You cannot claim that you think you were keeping Nebraskans safe. It has been years. You are willfully ignoring both experts and those giving extremely vulnerable personal testimony. You know exactly what you're doing, and that is what I want to address today. You are elected officials who represent all of Nebraska. And that means not only do you represent those who look and think like you, but those whose lives and choices you don't understand with or agree with. You don't have to understand or agree with them, you just need to respect their basic human rights and do your job to represent them. And I am afraid you are failing at your job. You are continuing to actively harm people you took an oath to represent. And frankly, you should be ashamed. What you are engaging in is called a paper genocide, or a legal genocide, as a previous testifier mentioned. You personally may not be calling for the-- for violence against trans folks, but you are intentionally enacting government policies that attempt to erase a population from public record. Given the violence that trans and nonbinary people face in this country, being erased on paper may seem trivial, but it is a step towards violence, and I cannot sit by in good conscience and allow you to move forward in a way that's going to bring more violence to my people. And they are your people, too. Regardless of how much you hate us, we are your people, and you are our representatives. No matter how hard you try, you will not erase us. And please, make no mistake. Any blood that is shed from hate crimes is on your hands, along with the hands of the direct

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perpetrators. You have chosen to be leaders of this state, and it's time you started acting like it.

**ANDERSEN:** Thank you, Ms. Lovato [SIC]. Are there any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you very much for your time. We'll take one more testifier. Are you testifying? Well take one more. Welcome to Government, Military, Veteran Affairs Committee.

**JESSIE DIGGINS:** All right. Hello. My name is Jessie Diggins, J-e-s-s-i-e D-i-g-g-i-n-s. I'm in opposition of LB730. So apologies if any of my concerns have already been over-- gone over. I came here straight from work. I have a few questions. First, I don't have a lawmaking background, so please forgive me if I've missed anything, but I've read the bill and I don't see any mechanisms of enforcement really. Like, are we going to have professional bathroom checkers, you know, a, a "potty patrol," so to speak? Is that job going to require accreditation? Is there going to be a mandatory background check, like for my job? You know, can anybody take this job-- you know, fresh out of high school, coming into retirement? Second, I've been following this issue for a few years now. And I've noticed in other states where this has passed, all I've heard about is, I guess you would call them tomboy or butch girls and women being stopped, harassed, and assaulted by someone who decides they want to be a vigilante and take enforcement to their own hands. [INAUDIBLE] heard of a little girl being saved from a transgender being barred from using the bathroom. So in my opinion, my takeaway from this has been in those states where similar laws have already been passed, women are less safe and in a greater degree of danger. But that's just my takeaway. Lastly, and I know you're not entitled to answer any of my questions, but I would really appreciate it, why is this being heard by the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee? I don't see the connection between bathrooms and military affairs, but that's all I have. Thank you for your time.

**ANDERSEN:** Thank you, Ms. Biggins. Are there any questions for Ms. Biggins? Seeing none, thank you very much for your time.

**JESSIE DIGGINS:** All right.

**ANDERSEN:** At this point, we'll take a 10-minute break.

[BREAK]

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**SANDERS:** We're going to go ahead and get started. Not everybody is back in their seats up here yet, but I think we should get started. So I think you all have it figured out who's next maybe? Or do I need to designate the next-- next? Super. That's the way we do it. Yes, if you give your testimony or your document. There we go. And the floor is yours.

**KATHY POEHLING:** Thank you. Good afternoon-- or now evening, my name is Kathy Poehling, K-a-t-h-y P-o-e-h-l-i-n-g. I am the president of the Omaha Education Association. I am the proud parent of an adult daughter who is a transgender woman. Growing up, Hannah never understood why she felt the way she did, living with extreme anxiety, which she never shared the reasons why. For years we were in search of help. We took her to therapy, where she was diagnosed with anxiety, but we still watched for answers. The answers would eventually come. For most of her life though Hannah lived a lie, hiding her true self behind a facade of being male in order to protect herself. When Hannah came to me at 29 years old, she broke down and told me that she was broken and couldn't be fixed. She went on to explain that she was transgender, not knowing how I would react. Of course, I told her I love her no matter what and would support her however I could. I can tell you at that moment, I felt like a failure as a parent. Not because she was transgender, but because I didn't see it sooner in order to intervene and help her understand who she truly was. And that she had her entire life she spent holding this in. Last year, Hannah underwent gender-affirming surgery. This decision did not happen overnight, but was a major medical milestone that was the culmination of years of consultation with doctors, mental health professionals, and our family. I am here today because LB730 feels like a policy solution-- and feels less like a policy solution and more like a direct targeting of my daughter's right to exist in public spaces with dignity. Under the definitions proposed in this bill, the state of Nebraska would essentially ignore my daughter's medical history and her identity by mandating that sex be defined solely by biological markers at birth. This bill creates a dangerous and confusing reality. It would require my daughter, a woman who has completed a full medical transition, to use the men's restroom and locker rooms in state-owned buildings and agencies. This does not increase privacy for anyone. It creates conflict where currently none exists. Privacy is for everyone. My daughter's presence doesn't take away someone else's privacy, but this bill certainly takes away hers. Hannah works at a univers-- at

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the university, and this would put her in danger. When my daughter enters a woman's restroom, she's there for the same reason every other woman is, for privacy and to go about her day. Forcing her into male-designated spaces would be humiliating. It would be a safety measure that actually places her, a woman, in direct physical danger. As a parent, I want my daughter to live in Nebraska, in a Nebraska that respects her journey and her autonomy. This bill does the opposite. It tells her no matter how much she contributes to her community and no matter what her medical records say, the state will always view her as a problem to be managed rather than a citizen to be protected. And therefore, I urge you to see the human faces behind these definitions and all of the people in this room, and ensure that LB730 remains in committee. I'll take any questions.

**SANDERS:** Thank you very much for your testimony. Are there any questions for Kathy Po-- Poehling?

**KATHY POEHLING:** Poehling.

**SANDERS:** Thank you. See none, got off easy.

**KATHY POEHLING:** And now I will turn it over to Hannah.

**SANDERS:** Good evening. The floor is yours.

**HANNAH POEHLING-WRIGHT:** Good afternoon, my name is Hannah, H-a-n-n-a-h, Poehling-Wright, P-o-e-h-l-i-n-g-W-r-i-g-h-t. It has been almost a full year since we last spoke. I said this then and I will say it again: Get used to seeing me. Thank you for giving me this platform. I'm here to present a true, tangible perspective on this issue. When I came here last year, I brought facts and statistics. That did not seem to have an impact on your decision, so this time, I'm bringing my lived experience. A life I have walked that some of you try to govern without truly knowing. The implications of these anti-trans bills will hurt far more than just trans Nebraskans. I hope you all have your paperwork ready in every public restroom situation because these bills are not common sense. I'm a 34-year-old proud trans woman, a sous chef at a university, a devoted wife, a community member and a full-time student studying to get my master's in strategic finance. I work hard, I give back, and I show up even in the face of threats and cruelty. Despite that, I wake up every day ready to help anyone in need, regardless of what side of the aisle you're

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on. Just a few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of working with Rita Sanders, planning an event. We collaborated professionally and respectfully. And I feel that it represented both my company and my community proudly. I hope that experience has helped you see how much value we bring to this world. And I look forward to working with you in the future. We exist everywhere. Often, you do not realize we with the ones on the other side of the line. I believe that-- I believe we should be able to disagree and still treat each other with dignity. Last year, I, I offered to sit down for a meaningful conversation so that our voices could be heard. I'm still waiting for that opportunity. There was not-- that, that was my attempt to reach across the aisle, but how can we have a seat at the table when you're actively trying to erase us? We are not different than you. We pay taxes, we volunteer, we want to live simple lives. I built my future here in Omaha. Growing up, I knew I was different. And I was taught to believe something was wrong with me. Looking back, I see how systems meant to protect me failed me just as, just as you are failing the youth, the trans youth of today. Instead of listening to the headlines, look me in the eyes. I have gone through the entire process of gender-affirming care from therapy to surgery. I'm nearly one year post-op, and I've never been more aligned with myself. To reach that point took years of therapy, letters, consultations and barriers. That is not casual, this is survival. Yet lawmakers with no medical background feel entitled to limit our healthcare, and for what purpose? Many of you probably have never seen a trans person in your clinic. Imagine navigating an already broken healthcare system and just to be turned away or denied because, because you're trans. The next time you visit your gynecologist, remember how fortunate you are to have that access. If LB730 passes, violence, violence and discrimination will rise. And victims-- and we are not the victims and not the predator-- or we are the victims, not the predators. Trans people have always used the bathroom they align with for decades. If we were the problem, you would already know it. I'm here to speak for myself and for those who cannot. I strongly urge you to vote against LB730 and any other anti-trans bills in the future. Our community has endured years of harm and we still are standing. I will continue to advocate, lead, and show up. I know we will be on the right side of history. Hum-- humility means playing the long game, and I'm in it. Nothing you do or say will extinguish our light. And make no mistake,

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I'm coming for one of those seats that you're sitting right there. And I look forward to being your committed opponent.

**SANDERS:** Thank you, Hannah, for your testimony.

**HANNAH POEHLING-WRIGHT:** I'll take any questions.

**SANDERS:** OK, any questions from the committee? See none. Thank you for taking the time--

**HANNAH POEHLING-WRIGHT:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** --and for your testimony. Thank you. Next testifier.

**CECE CROZIER:** Hello.

**SANDERS:** Hi.

**CECE CROZIER:** My name is Cece Crozier, C-e-c-e C-r-o-z-i-e-r. I have been at this area quite a few times against multiple anti-trans bills because I am a trans person myself. I had an entire everything planned and I feel like honestly just annoys me. Because this, having to be here multiple times, almost every single year, over and over and over again, because people think that trans people are the problem for some reason. I don't know why, because honestly, if you think trans people are the problem going in a bathroom that they identify with, I would like to talk about the many times that I and other trans people I know have been sexually harassed in many different ways. I personally have had multiple people say that either-- they have said-- I've had somebody say in class multiple times, over and over and over again, tap me and go, oh yeah, you're a girl, you're a girl, you're a girl, over 50 times in one class period that lasts an hour. To the point that she had to get taken out of that class because she was harassing me over and over and again because she thought I was a girl. I've also had somebody who looked at me and went, oh, yeah, you're a boy? Well, ah, nah, I don't see a penis on you. So you're not a boy. You're not. So I just feel like that's weird. I've also had my friend, he has also had multiple people either touch him weird and multiple things like that. And all of those people have been cis and male. And it just annoys me because I'm reading here multiple statements and notes from other trans youth that I know talking either about how they have been actually the victim in multiple areas or how they are just wanting love and appreciation for who they are, and how they I just think it's

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unfair to be discrimin-- discrimin-- honestly, I don't care. This was kind of-- not gonna lie, I am annoyed that I had to be pulled out of school just so that I could talk about how annoyed I am with people hating me because I exist. I am so also annoyed-- also if someone were to put me per se in the girls bathroom because I was a girl at birth, I would get punched across the face because in my school I'm a man. And I also know multiple trans women, if they were in the boys bathroom they would have people look at them weird. So honestly, it just doesn't make sense.

**SANDERS:** But we appreciate you're here to testify.

**CECE CROZIER:** Mm-hmm.

**SANDERS:** So thank you for your testimony. Let's check to see if there are any questions from the committee. See none, appreciate you being here this evening.

**CECE CROZIER:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Thank you. Good evening. Welcome.

**DEVIN CROZIER:** Questionable if it's good evening. Hi, I'm probably the worst nightmare of some of the people in this room, also known as Devin Crozier, D-e-v-i-n C-r-o-z-i-e-r. The person who went before me is my wonderful son, someone who you guys are targeting for some reason. An innocent child. And the thing that makes me probably a nightmare for you is that I am also transgender. Isn't that terrible, a trans having another trans? And I'm just here to say that I'm gonna call just bullshit. You're trying to protect women and children while the people proposing this bill are the ones that are constantly, you know, getting in trouble for certain, certain pornography on their computers or kidnapping children, assaulting women. But you're try to protect the women and the children? No, you're not. You hate trans people. And I'm from New Jersey. I'm not Nebraska-born, neither is my son. We chose to stay here to fight for the kids that get born in this state because they can't control where they are. Because it's not fair that they have to get treated like garbage by adults that think that somehow they know better or that they a right to treat someone like they're less than human. And that's not fair. So I say, as a native of New Jersey, we like to say the truth and call it out. So why don't you say it with your whole chest that you just hate trans people and you

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want to eradicate us? And I want to tell you, I've been trans since I was a child. And you failed. I'm still alive and I grew up to be an adult. And I'm a 100% service-connected disabled veteran and you're the committee that's supposed to partially represent me, but I don't feel welcome here at all. Because you guys think that people like me don't deserve to exist. Why? Why do you care so much? And I would like to say that all of my identification says that I'm a man. I have been chased out of women's restrooms since before I transitioned medically. But you're gonna tell me that you want me to go into the women's restroom? And how are you gonna prove, when I try to go to the men's restroom, that I am not a man? My birth certificate, my ID, all say that I'm a man. So what are you going to do, make me drop my pants? Make my son drop his pants to say, oh no, you don't belong in this restroom? That's a little bit of projecting, isn't it? You're calling us the groomers and the pedophiles, but you're trying to see what's in kids' pants to know if they're going the right bathroom when all they're trying do is take a piss. That's pretty crazy to me. All I'm trying to do is make ano-- make sure another kid doesn't kill themselves because you guys victimize them and treat them like garbage and tell them that they don't deserve to exist or try to define us out of existence. And I will tell you now that it doesn't matter what you say legally is whatever sex or gender. People will be transgender. We have existed for as long as humans have existed and we will continue to do so whether you give us terms for it or not.

**SANDERS:** Thank you for your testimony. See if there's any questions from the committee. There are none.

**DEVIN CROZIER:** None, not surprising.

**SANDERS:** Thanks for coming out.

**DEVIN CROZIER:** I will continue to be here.

**SANDERS:** Thank you.

**DEVIN CROZIER:** Until this stops.

**SANDERS:** Good evening, welcome.

**DAVID MENDOZA TORRES:** Good evening, Chair and members of the committee. My name is David Mendoza-Torres, D-a-v-i-d M-e-n-d-o-z-a T-o-r-r-e-s. I'm a Nebraskan, a father, and someone who cares deeply

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about the kind of community we are building for our kids. I am here today in opposition to LB730, LB731, and LB732. I believe government should make people's lives better, not harder. These bills do the opposite. They single out a small group of Nebraskans and make everyday life more stressful and more complicated for them and their families. LB730 puts the government in charge of where people are allowed to use the bathroom. That doesn't make anyone safer. It creates fear and confusion for kids and families. LB731 and LB732 go even further by inserting politicians into private medical decisions. Healthcare decisions belong to families and their doctors, not the Legislature. That's personal and not something government should control. I've known and worked people who are transgender. They're not a threat and they're not political issue. They're just our neighbors trying to live their lives like everyone else. They deserve the same dignity and respect as every other family in our community. Nebraska has always valued freedom, fairness, and minding our own business. In fact, our state motto, if you didn't know, is "Equality before the law." That's a promise that every Nebraskan should be treated with the same-- the same under the law. These bills move us in the opposite of that direction. For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to vote no on LB730, 31-- LB731, and LB732. Thank you for your time.

**SANDERS:** Thank you for your time and testimony. Check to see if there are any questions for you. Thank you very much. Good evening.

**BRAD OLBERDING:** Good evening, Chairperson Sanders and members of the committee. My name is Brad Olberding, B-r-a-d O-l-b-e-r-d-i-n-g, and I oppose LB730. I oppose this bill because the bathroom was the final straw that broke my daughter's back. I'm sorry. She was a girl since she was first able to really express herself. She always liked dresses, she idolized princesses. Early on we tried to subdue it as best we could. We let her wear dresses at home, but when we went out, we made her conform to the social norms of a boy. Then preschool came and she rocked it. She was eager to go to class, made good friends, ultimately became ready for kindergarten. She was happy and healthy. Kindergarten began right where she left off preschool. She was confident as ever. But by second semester, we started to notice a decline. She started to fear school. She dreaded going. But she got good grades and her teachers ensured us that everything was fine. It continued to worsen through first grade. Then one spring day at pickup, our six-year-old who had been potty trained for years had an accident in the car on the way home. She melted down. It was that day

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that we found out or realized that this was the first time she was in a public bathroom regularly. And she had actually been holding it all day long, and not using the bathroom. It was at this time that she still dressed in neutral clothes. She still went by he and him pronouns. She looked like a boy. But she wasn't a boy in her heart or in her brain. She was no longer happy or healthy. That summer, after two separate pediatric psych evals, we got a whole new wardrobe. We changed her pronouns and we set up a safe plan with LPS here in town using her preferred bathroom. In August, she walked in unattended as her authentic self. It was an amazing turnaround and her second year of school was her best. She is now in fourth grade. I wish I could say everything has been positive. She has a hard time making friends and faces bullies almost daily. We ask her often if this is what she wants. And despite all that heartache, she never wavers. She prefers isolation and bullying over not being her true self. This is by far the strongest person I know. We are living in some complicated times. How do you know what is best for your kids? You draw on past experiences, your own upbringing, your faith, your community. Senators, in preparation for this testimony, I did look at your bios, and we actually have a lot in common. I grew up in a Catholic family on a dairy farm in rural Nebraska. I am a Husker alumni. I'm married, two kids, have a successful medical practice here in town. I'm a veteran of the National Guard, having two tours overseas. Ask yourselves, if you and I come from the very similar backgrounds, and it's those backgrounds that you draw on when it comes to tough parenting decisions, what would do if your next child or grandchild is transgender? Parents will do whatever it takes to keep their kids healthy and happy. That is really all that matters. My child will never go back to the other bathroom, even if it means moving away from this state that I've lived in my entire life. My kids are worth it. Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Thank you. We'll see if there are any questions. I appreciate your testimony [INAUDIBLE].

**BRAD OLBERDING:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Good evening, welcome.

**ANNABEL JOURNEY:** Good evening. Hello, my name is Annabel Lee Journey, A-n-n-a-b-e-l J-o-u-r-n-e-y. I chose my name because Annabel Lee is my favorite poem. I like to be reminded of something beautiful whenever

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someone speaks it. I oppose LB730. I'm a proud and joyful trans woman who has lived in Nebraska for 29 years. My wife and I are celebrating our 25th anniversary next year. We have two kind-hearted, creative, and thoughtful boys who call us both mom. My South O neighbor, and I take turns caring for each other's pets whenever one of us travels, and I've been a teacher for the last 16 years. I'm a published poet and a board game designer. I love reading romance novels, walking in nature, and attending the symphony, where I spend intermission standing in the long line for the restroom with the other women. I tell you this because I am thriving in the ways that I consider important, and because we have a saying in the transgender co--community, that every living, joyful, and thriving transgender individual is a Republican policy failure. Our presence in years past at the hearings this year, and against whatever bills Kathleen Kauth pulls out of her bigoted behind next year, are all evidence of our triumph over your endeavors. You can try to legislatively erase our legal identities, but you can never erase our own sense of self, because we have always been here. We are here now and we intend on still being here in the future, living and loving our lives as we see fit under our terms, as we define. The notion that a group of lawmakers can tell state agencies how they have to define us is simultaneously offensive and laughably ludicrous. You have no idea the intense internal struggle that each trans person has wrestled with to face their greatest fears, to grapple with them and conquer them before finally accepting themselves. It took me 40 years to do that. We have been through the fire and you have no power over us as a result. Kathleen Kauth must feel loopy if she thinks she could come along and tell me who I am and where I have to take a piss. It will be a cold day in hell before I let a politician define who I am. So pass this bill if you can. I will still use the women's restroom at my school the next day. And I will encourage my trans students to keep using the same ones too. I defy you. I defy your bigotry. I defy your unjust laws. And I do so joyfully with a smile on my lips and a symphony in my heart. Thank you for hearing me out, and I wish-- I only wish that your hearts and your minds and your souls were as open as your ears. I'm happy to answer any questions that you might have.

**SANDERS:** Thank you for your testimony. Any questions? Comments? See none.

**HUNT:** Thank you.

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**SANDERS:** Thank you very much for being here, and for your testimony. Good evening.

**KIM TERRY:** Hi. My name is Kim Terry, K-i-m T-e-r-r-y. I did not come here with any prepared comments. I didn't even come here expecting to speak to you. After listening to all this, I wish I had prepared comments. There's been a lot of passion shared here. And I urge you to try your very best. Look deep down in your soul and look at this issue from the reality base of all these people you've heard from. This is their life. This is their reality. I'm here to just share a couple of my own observations, and I will share with you that I am a lifelong Nebraska citizen, raised in a very conservative family, and have for a long time considered myself to be a conservative person. But you propose a bill that tells trans people which bathrooms they can use by law on the premise that it's going to protect girls and women. I'm here to tell you that as a biological female who's been through a lot of phases of my life, I would be much more comfortable finding myself in a woman's room with a biological male who is presenting and living their life as a female than I would what you are trying to pass by law for a biological female presenting as a fe-- as a male to walk into that room with me. That would make me very uncomfortable. And I'll add that my six-year-old granddaughter finding herself in that same situation of being in a women's privacy-type environment, a restroom, to have someone presenting and identifying as a male walking in that room would cause a whole lot more questions and confusion and anxiety than someone that walks in and presents themselves as a female. And that, that's basically what I wanted to share, other than I, I think there's been a great deal of very valid information shared with you. And I ask you to seriously look at it with an open mind. That's all I have.

**SANDERS:** Thank you for your testimony. Any questions? Thank you, Ms. Terry, for your testimony. The floor is yours.

**AMARA PACE:** Hello, my name is Amara Pace, that's A-m-a-r-a and P-a-c-e. I also don't have anything prepared. I wasn't sure if I was going to speak today, but I'm feel like I have to. I'm just going to tell you a little bit about myself and what I've been through.

**SANDERS:** If I could have you speak up or maybe into the microphone because it is a recording.

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**AMARA PACE:** Sorry. I have been told that I--

**SANDERS:** Your testimony is important.

**AMARA PACE:** --I speak a bit too softly. Which is ironic because I work ten hours a day on the phone helping people retire, actually. I help people with, you know, retirement savings and pension. I help them collect so that they can continue to live their lives, even though I probably won't retire. I'm actually at a point where I might be pulling my own minuscule retirement savings just to prevent my own eviction. So anyway, I realized that I needed to live as a girl when I was only 12, just shy of 13. And I knew even then at that time that the world was not very kind to anyone different, so I mostly hid it. I did tell my father when I was 14. He more or less said that he knew and then just walked out the door. So I told some other people, but basically every time I told someone I was ignored or harmed. The last time I told someone up until I was 27 was when I was 19. And my GP, who had been my doctor since I was a child, basically yelled in my face to not cut it off. And that was the last time I bothered telling anybody. I've mostly lived in isolation. I was always very afraid of people in general. As far as I was concerned, the world was filled with monsters who hated me for existing. So I hid. When I was 27, I couldn't take it anymore, and I realized that if I had nothing to lose and nothing to live for, I might as well try living for myself, so I began transitioning. I am now 33 years old and finally living my life for the first time. And I really do want to live. Sorry, I need a moment. I will probably always be scared of people, so I understand what it's like to go into a bathroom and be a little apprehensive of others. I do get that, but we are people first and foremost. Just people. I think therefore I am. And if that doesn't hold true, then we're all just dumb animals. Sorry, this is the most embarrassing and terrifying thing that I have ever done.

**SANDERS:** You're doing good. The point is you have this on the record--

**AMARA PACE:** Yeah.

**SANDERS:** --how you feel? And we thank you for coming in.

**AMARA PACE:** Yeah. I just want to say, lastly, people have never really valued my thoughts or feelings. So thank you for taking the time to listen to me.

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**SANDERS:** Thank you for coming in this evening and your testimony. We have questions from the committee? Yes, Senator Hunt.

**HUNT:** Thank you, Chairwoman Sanders. Thank you for being here today. Can you remind me your name?

**AMARA PACE:** Amara.

**HUNT:** Amara. Thank you. Thank you for being here. I'm glad you're here. I'm glad that you were vulnerable enough to put yourself out there and share this with us. And I'm glad you were born, and I'm glad you are who you are. And I am glad that you found a way to find some happiness in this life that wants to hold us back in so many ways. I, I wanted to ask you, and if, if you're too overwhelmed-- I don't want you to feel embarrassed, because what you're doing is braver than what, I mean, well, respectfully, what any of my colleagues have ever seen them do. So you should feel proud of yourself, not embarrassed in any way. But can you share-- I appreciate the background on you, and can you show how this bill would affect your life?

**AMARA PACE:** Of course. I am fortunate in that I actually get to work from home. I didn't initially, but then the pandemic hit, and I did right after I started transitioning. So I was very lucky in that I didn't have to go through a second puberty in front of everyone, necessarily. Excuse me. I can use my own personal bathroom when I'm working, when I am at home. And emotionally I am at home, but when I'm out in public, when I need to use the restroom in my apartment lobby, you want me in the men's restroom? I, I--

**HUNT:** I think the safest restroom for you is the women's restroom. Does that sound right?

**AMARA PACE:** Yeah, that's where I feel safest.

**HUNT:** OK, thank you for being here. Thanks for taking the time.

**AMARA PACE:** You're welcome.

**SANDERS:** Any other questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you for being here. Any others? Good evening. Floor is yours.

**ALMA CERRETTA:** Thank you. My name is Alma Cerreta, A-l-m-a C-e-r-r-e-t-t-a. If I or many of the people here today look familiar

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to you, that's because every time this issue comes up, we show up. Three years running we are here to express our opposition. Last year a hearing that ran until midnight and 1,500 online comments against LB89, which was introduced with similar text to this bill, was not enough to convince this committee that Nebraskans do not want this legislation. So we're back again with the same concerns and the same opposition for hopefully the last time. Senator Kauth believes that being transgender is a mental illness. And truthfully, the information is completely irrelevant. Regardless of anyone's personal feelings about trans people, they will continue to exist and should still be afforded basic human rights as Nebraskans. Rights like using the restroom without having to flash their private parts. Now you might say, well, no one is going to inspect genitals. But then we'll ask you, again, for the third time, how will this bill be enforced then? Is there a way to enforce this bill that doesn't subject cisgender men and women to harassment, scrutiny, and embarrassment for the crime of not looking male or female enough? Is this bill about protecting women or about controlling transgender people? Finally, I would like to address this part of the bill. It reads, an individual born with a diagnosis of a disorder or difference in sex development shall be-- shall have the relevant legal protections and accommodations afforded under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as amended. There have been no significant rulings or interpretations of the ADA that addresses how the ADA protects intersex people or even if the ADA does so. There have, however, been two notable cases, *Blatt v. Cabela's*, in the District Court of Eastern Pennsylvania, and *Williams v. Kincaid*, in the U.S. Fourth Circuit, that have established that gender dysphoria is a protected disability under the ADA. So if the ADA already accommodates intersex people and transgender people, then this bill does nothing other than create dangerous and confusing legal gray areas for public schools and state agencies to follow. Please consider not only the testimony you heard today, but the testimony of Nebraskans for the last three years. Please remember your colleagues' own objections to this legislation. Senator Riepe expressing that he does not want the government to become the "potty police" comes to mind. Don't let this bill advance from committee and put the community and yourselves through this debate again. Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Thank you, Alma, for your testimony again. Any questions from the committee? Comments? Thank you.

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**ALMA CERRETTA:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Good evening, welcome.

**ABBEY RAGAIN:** Thank you. Thank you, Chairperson and senators. My name is Abbey Ragain, A-b-b-e-y R-a-g-a-i-n, and I'm a resident of District 27. I am speaking on behalf of myself today, not on behalf my employer or representing my employer. However, I have spent my entire professional career thus far in the state of Nebraska as a dedicated preventionist in both suicide prevention and gender-based violence or sexual violence prevention. So this bill has flagged concerns to me and these issues we work so hard to prevent from happening in our communities. And as someone who is lucky to be surrounded by transgender friends, it is incredibly disheartening to know how this bill is working to erase these incredible people by essentially not considering them as citizens, having access to public spaces to perform a natural human function, and to hear how they are fearing for their safety. Something with this bill that I also couldn't help but think of is the negative impact that this will have on youth, especially when it comes to avoiding the restroom due to fear. Please consider the harm and damage that will happen when these individuals avoid public restrooms due to the fear. Negative health impacts such as recurring urinary tract infections, bladder infections, and kidney infections, as well as extreme embarrassment from peeing their pants when they can't hold it any longer. To get personal, as a child, I experienced recurring bladder infections that led me to undergo a medical procedure that caused immense trauma. And I still agree with the person that I could have been today without undergoing that procedure. As I came to discover the intersections of this personal experience, that was what evidently informed my career path today. We should be working upstream to prevent the issues that I believe this bill is attempting to address. We need more energy put towards education on violence prevention and overall consent. So when I think of how this bill would be enforced, I picture a huge violation of individuals' consent and agency, once again, working in the opposite direction of what we're trying to prevent: sexual violence. It isn't the bathroom's fault or the gender someone identifies with. The sole fault of the harm lies with the person who caused the harm, just as much as it isn't about the clothes someone is wearing. So I ask the committee to oppose LB730. This bill will negatively impact Nebraskans and the futures of so many. My hope is that by working to actually prevent sexual violence and suicide, by being proactive instead of

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reactive, more folks can all truly live the good life. Thank you for your time and opportunity to testify today.

**SANDERS:** Thank you for your testimony, Abbey. See if there are any questions from the committee. Seeing none, thank you for your testimony.

**ABBEY RAGAIN:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Hello. The floor is yours.

**DARCY FORCE:** Thank you. My name is Darcy Force, D-a-r-c-y F-o-r-c-e, and I'm a resident of Lincoln. I'm in opposition to LB730. I have a number of trans people in my life. They are human beings who contribute in significant ways to their families and community. Their gender identity is irrelevant to the impact they make. More importantly, their gender identity should not impact their access to basic human rights. I have watched as my friends have gone from vibrant, beautiful people to once again being unsure of their place in society and fearing for their safety. 73% of Americans support protection for transgender persons against discrimination per Williams Institute study. This bill claims that it seeks to improve mental health and safety and provide dignity for everyone. Contrary to this assertion, a study by Getty shows that the 2025 Pride Month saw a 400% increase in anti-LGBTQ+ hate incidents compared to the last two years with the increase of anti-transgender bills. It was noted that U.S. states at the center of political turmoil over these rights saw the most reported incidents overall. Assertions have been made today that becoming transgender is a social epidemic. It is counterintuitive that a group that is receiving such discrimination would be one that is joined to simply fit in. The question has been asked over and over how this bill would be enforced. As a tall, wide-shoulder cisgender woman, I have been mistaken for a male. How would you enforce this with any respect for anybody? My transgender friends are humans. They are citizens of the United States. They should not be denied human rights. Voting for this bill sets a dangerous precedent for future abuse of human rights. This bill is discriminatory, and I urge you to vote against it. Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Thank you for your testimony. See if we have any questions from the committee. Thank you very much. The floor is yours.

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**JAKE THIEM:** Hello, my name is Jake Thiem, J-a-k-e T-h-i-e-m. I'm a born and raised Nebraskan. I came back here after my service. I'm a veteran. I served honorably overseas on behalf of the great people of the United States of America and Nebraska. I've successfully been rehabilitated as a disabled veteran. And I'm software engineer, and I proudly make robots that help people. Now, however, I have to spend my time dealing with divisive and unnecessary legislature like this. I don't get why our Legislature continues to waste our time on petty, obviously discriminatory bills. For some people I fought-- for the same people I fought and sacrificed for in service, I now have to continue fighting for because they're American peoples too. This bill, LB730, is obviously aimed on pushing an agenda against transgender individuals that wish to live their lives in liberty as the constitution in which I swore an oath to states is all right. Now we have to spend our time and resources to stand up for each other while we pay for these hearings and through our tax dollars. I want to be focused on making robots that help people, but I can't do that when I have to worry about the people that I care for. Stop this bill. Stop wasting Nebraska's tax dollars. And when liberty of one group is threatened, the liberty of all Nebraskans are under attack. This is not "Nebraska nice" and we deserve better.

**SANDERS:** Thank you, Mr. Thiem, for your testimony and also for your serving. Were you Marine?

**JAKE THIEM:** I was Army.

**SANDERS:** Army. Thank you for your service.

**JAKE THIEM:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Are there any questions from the committee?

**HUNT:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** See none. Thank you.

**JAKE THIEM:** Have a great evening.

**SANDERS:** You too. Good evening, welcome. Floor is yours.

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**JAMEL J.W. CONNOR:** Good evening, Chairperson Sanders and members of this committee. My name is Jamel J.W. Connor. I represent the ACLU.

**SANDERS:** I'm going to have you spell your name.

**JAMEL J.W. CONNOR:** Sorry. Yes. Jamel, J-a-m-e-l J-W, Connor, C-o-n-n-o-r.

**SANDERS:** Thank you.

**JAMEL J.W. CONNOR:** We are in opposition to LB730. LB730 purports to further the interests of public health and welfare by marginalizing some of our most unprotected community members. In addition, the bill endeavors to codify already accepted community norms by mandating that the covered entities designate restrooms and locker rooms based on sex and prohibit use by the opposite sex. We already have men's, women's, family, individual facilities. The harm this bill seeks to present is illusionary. However, the harm that this bill will cause is very real. LPS has submitted written opposition to this bill along with the testimony here today of the Omaha Public Schools System. That should give this committee pause when two of Nebraska's largest school districts do not want this bill, along with so many of our other community members. While the ACLU did not support last year's LB89, at least that bill left the determination of sex and gender to medical professionals. We see none of that here. People are complex, and in our free society should be allowed to express themselves as they see fit. This bill would allow the government to intrude to literally the most private aspects of our lives. Could this bill become law? Sure. Should this bill become law? No. Common sense is a phrase that's been repeated in this committee hearing and around bills similar to this. We urge this body carefully to con-- to carefully consider that the United States Supreme Court has not decided on the PBJ [SIC] and the Hecox cases that were just argued before it on January 13th of this year. This means that the level of scrutiny this bill may be subject to is not established law. Among other issues, in the interest of common sense, we ask this committee to oppose and not advance LB730. Thank you for your time. And I'm here for any questions.

**SANDERS:** Thank you, Ms. Connor, for your testimony. Senator Hunt.

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**HUNT:** Thank you, Chairwoman Sanders. Thanks for being here. Did you say that Lincoln Public Schools and Omaha Public Schools are in opposition?

**JAMEL J.W. CONNOR:** I did.

**HUNT:** OK, thank you.

**SANDERS:** Any other questions or comments from the committee? I see none. Thank you very much for your testimony.

**JAMEL J.W. CONNOR:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Good evening. The floor is yours.

**VESPER LaTHARY:** Thank you. Good evening, members of the committee. My name is Vesper LaThary, that's V-e-s-p-e-r L-a-T-h-a-r-y. I am a mental health therapist in the state of Nebraska. Born here. I grew up elsewhere and loved it so much that I was raised in Nebraska and even another state that I came back. And I've lived here for 14 years. I started a family. I've been to school in Nebraska, public colleges, and I have a master's degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in mental health counseling. I have 3,000 hours logged of working with severe and persistent mental illness, people who are struggling with the worst of the worst in the way of mental health, and I work in an inpatient psychiatric facility. I've seen numerous transgender individuals come through with severe mental health caused by the trauma of discrimination caused by not being accepted by families, caused by the rejection of the society that they live in. Not because they are transgender, but because people can't accept that they are a transgender. And every one of those people feels better receiving gender-affirming care. Every one of these people feels better when they have access to the facilities that match their gender. Every one of those people feel worse when they come to the hospital and aren't allowed to have the facilities that match them or the medications that make them feel whole. None of this is on-- what I prepared to talk about today. So I want to talk about that I'm in opposition to LB730, defining sex in state law. It uses rigid and binary definitions that erase transgender and gender-expansive people, anyone who doesn't fit into a very curated norm of society, who doesn't look the way that they're supposed to look as a man or a woman. And that doesn't serve this state. This state thrives with diverse voices. The state thrives

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with equality and equity. And what doing this would cause would be for diverse voices to leave. I've watched friends, I've watched patients, I've watched clients and family choose to leave this state because they don't feel like the fight is worth fighting. Because they feel like our senators, our representatives are listening and fighting for us. And in the argument of gender dysphoria as a mental illness, as I think I can speak on that, sure, it's in the DSM. It's recognized gender dysphoria disorder. It's diagnosed when it causes such significant distress in life that it's hard to function in other areas of life. But other mental illnesses include a lack of empathy and remorse for other people. Earlier it was said that there is a level of empathy that has become toxic in our society, and a lack of empathy is defined as a symptom of narcissistic personality disorder. The lack of remorse for the pain we cause others is defined as a symptom of antisocial personality disorder. So if you're saying that transgender, gender dysphoria is a mental illness, so is not caring about the people around us. So is looking at people and not seeing them as people. So please oppose this bill. Let people live.

**SANDERS:** Thank you very much for your, your testimony. Any questions for Vesper? Comments? Thank you for being on the record [INAUDIBLE]. I appreciate it. Any others that would like to testify? The floor is yours.

**LISA BALL:** Good evening. I came here today to oppose LB730. I agree that we all should be deeply concerned about--

**SANDERS:** Excuse me, a couple things. If you could speak into the mic so the people behind can also hear, but I also need you to say your first and last name and spell it for the record--

**LISA BALL:** Certainly.

**SANDERS:** --so it's on tape.

**LISA BALL:** Lisa Ball, L-i-s-a B-a-l-l.

**SANDERS:** Thank you.

**LISA BALL:** I do agree that we should be deeply concerned about everybody's safety. I don't understand how this bill makes it safer for everyone. It appears to just shuffle the risk. It's my understanding that there's somewhere between 1 and 1.7% of the

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population that is trans. I'm not an expert. It seems like LB730 just takes into account sex, but not gender. It's my opinion that the government is becoming involved-- by the government becoming involved in this way, it's gonna encourage bullying and make everyone less safe. I can't help but recall Ronald Reagan said, "government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem." And I think that's appropriate in this case. I think it's time-- at this time, I feel like we're all wanting less government control in our lives. And I'm asking that LB730 not be advanced.

**SANDERS:** Thank you for your testimony. Let's check to see if there are any questions from the committee. Seeing none, thank you for being on record. Good evening.

**HEATHER RHEA:** Hi, good evening to you.

**SANDERS:** The floor is yours.

**HEATHER RHEA:** My name is Heather Ray, H-e-a-t-h-e-r R-h-e-a. That's my mom and she's so timid, and I'm so proud of her for coming here to speak her mind. I am less timid and have been here before and will be here again shortly, I'm sure. I would love to encourage you to not pass LB730 out of committee. I think we all know that it's discriminatory that we're looking to erase a whole subset of people. One of those people is my daughter. And so I do take it really personally. But I do think that we need to also consider the science of the situation, but I'm not going to speak to that today. The thought that keeps coming into my mind is one that Bryan Stevenson, who wrote Just Mercy, it's a theme in that book, and that is that we are all greater than one thing. And in his context, we're all greater than the worst thing we've done. And I try to keep that in mind when I think about the anti-trans bills. Right, like we're all more than one thing. And this bill makes it really, really hard if, if you're trans, or if you are a cis woman who looks too manly or a cis man who looks too womanly, then every time you use a restroom, you're reduced to one thing. And that one thing is the genitals that you were born with. And I don't know about you, but when I die, somebody is not going to stand next to my coffin and say, here lies Heather Rhea, and she had the "vaginiest" vagina that ever "vaginad." They are going to say things like, Heather worked too many hours. Heather made me my favorite dessert every year on my birthday. Heather was a mom who fought fiercely for her child. Right? Why would we want to take any of us and

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reduce us down to this one tiny piece of our life that really is nobody else's business? So I am definitely open to any questions. I am always open to speak on the experience of a parent who has a transgender child. Other than that, I'm happy to answer any questions.

**SANDERS:** Thank you, Heather for your testimony. We'll check to see if the committee has any questions or comments. I see none. Thank you very much. Good evening.

**CAROLYN CURRY:** Hello, my name is Carolyn Curry, C-a-r-o-l-y-n, last name Curry, C-u-r-r-y. I am an adolescent medicine physician, and I'm board certified in internal medicine and pediatrics. I am here representing the Nebraska Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. We are against LB730 and urge you to reject this bill. The AAP, along with the Society for Adolescent Medicine and Health recommend that youth use the bathroom that aligns with their gender identity. Transgender and non-binary youth already experience higher rates of sexual assault, harassment, and discrimination. Many fear going to the restroom already. This leads to limiting water intake, holding in urine, and increases the risk of urinary tract infections and kidney stones. Studies have shown that 58 percent of transgender non-binary youth are already prevented or discouraged from using the restroom that aligns with their gender identity. And of that 58%, 85% of those are likely to have a depressed mood and 60% may seriously consider suicide. Bills such as LB730 call attention to people's differences and will increase the amount of harassment and discrimination that gender-diverse people experience, in addition to cis people, whose appearance may not align with their gender identity that was traditionally thought. There is no evidence that bills like these increase the safety of cisgender individuals. We urge you to reject LB730, to keep schools safer for gender-diverse and gender-conforming youth. Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Thank you very much for your testimony, Dr. Curry. Are there any questions for Dr. Curry? See none, thank you for your testimony. I also want to say that we've come to the hour-- an hour. Does anyone need to take a break, or do we want to keep moving forward? No basketball games tonight [INAUDIBLE] wants to keep going? Come on forward. Julie, you're OK? Good evening. Welcome.

**LELAND DORAN:** Thank you, Chairperson Sanders, Committee. My name is Leland Doran, L-e-l-a-n-d D-o-r-a-n. I sit before you today not only

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as a trans woman, but as a parent. LB730 is not just wrong, but harmful, and will cause harm to many Nebraskans, not just those that are trans. I ask you today to oppose it. As defining sex so narrowly in contrast to what is observed in nature in both humans and other species, you negate the existence and target trans and intersex people. You go to say that schools and government buildings shall only follow the narrow definition of sex as defined in this bill for corresponding use of restrooms and locker rooms, saying that female, male, and single-use facilities shall be provided. Let us look at the school budgets that have already been stripped. How are they to afford single-use facilities or enforce these policies? This bill has no enforcement mechanism. So are we to self-police and risk harassment? What happens when a young woman shaves her head for health reasons or other concerns? She will be harassed and bullied by her appearance more so than what already happens in high schools. I'm a graduate of the high school here in Lincoln. I've seen firsthand how cruel kids can be. But also how accepting they can be. What happens when they report people? They're going to be arrested, detained, and traumatized. We have seen this in other states that have passed similar laws. And that's just the best-case scenario. People will have health consequences for fear of using the restroom and being harassed. As many have said before, they risk UTIs, bladder and kidney infections. But beyond that, people will become depressed and risk self-harm or suicide. That is not a Nebraska that we know and love. Nebraska is for everyone and it's supposed to be the good life. Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Thank you for your testimony. Let's see if there's any questions or comments. Seeing none, thank you very much for your testimony. Anyone-- please come forward.

**KYRA BRITT:** Hi. My name is Kyra Britt, K-y-r-a B-r-i-t-t. I'm a student and an employee at a public college here in Nebraska, and I am a cisgender woman. I'm exactly the kind of person that bills like LB730 claim to protect. But let me assure you, this bill does nothing for me. I cannot express how insulted I am that Senator Kauth thinks that she can trick cis women like me into believing that taking away basic rights from trans and non-binary Nebraskans does anything to protect me. LB730 is a blatant attempt to further discriminate against trans, non-binary, and gender-expansive Nebraskans by placing arbitrary restrictions on their use of public spaces, including excluding them from public life. And using the LGBTQ+ community as a

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scapegoat like this year after year, just so you don't have to address the actual injustices that women face, is truly reprehensible. I'd like to bring your attention to a couple of scientific reports that recent-- recently came out. According to the CDC, nearly half of women experience some form of contact sexual violence in their lifetimes. But also, according to a study from Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia, and the University of Texas at Austin, almost half of transgender and gender-diverse individuals have been sexually assaulted in their lifetime as well. The incident-- incidents of sexual violence is even higher among transgender people of color. And on top of that, according to a recent study by the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law, transgender people are over four times more likely than cisgender people to experience violent victimization. Including rape, sexual assault, and aggravated or simple assault. Looking at the statistics, trans people need more protection than cis women do. But this bill will only exacerbate the harassment, violence, and ostracization that trans people are forced to endure on a daily basis. In last year's attempt at a bill banning trans and non-binary students from using bathrooms and locker rooms, over 75% of the online comments submitted on the bill were in opposition, as was over 85% of the in-person testimony. It's clear that Nebraskans are not asking for this. We have real problems and inequities in our state that need addressing. We're concerned about not being able to afford groceries and other necessities. We're worried about the rising cost of housing and how expensive our medical bills are. We need public transportation and affordable child care and mental health support and so much more. But every year that you try to distract us with bills that target trans folks, you not only do serious harm to trans folks in Nebraska, but you also waste so much time that we have in these short legislative sessions. So let's quit while we're ahead on this bill and start prioritizing legislation that Nebraskans actually need. Do not advance LB730. Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Thank you, Kyra, for your testimony. Let's check to see if there's any comments or questions from the committee. I see none. Thank you very much for your testimony.

**KYRA BRITT:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Good evening.

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**ANNE DeVRIES:** Thank you. My name is Anne DeVries, A-n-n-e D-e-V-r-i-e-s, a lifetime resident of Nebraska. I oppose LB730 and agree with all the examples of the harms it will inflict on people. I do not understand what Senator Kauth, who introduced this bill, is thinking. I can only imagine she introduced this bill thinking she would know the individuals that violate her bill and she wants to condemn them to harassment. Anyone that claims they know for certain the birth sex of an individual based on the way they look is factually wrong. As was already pointed out, her bill will make cis people face harassment. Will this bill force cis people to carry a birth certificate? Will the bill allow citizens to report infractions? Will someone be allowed to check people's genitals? Senator Kauth has no answers to these questions since this bill is so absurd. We all know this bill is just noise in the news to keep us busy at these committee hearings, so helpful bills won't have time to be considered. We all know the events that led to the Republicans' sickness, and it would take days to list them all out. An obvious, harmful event is the second term of Trump, where we see Stephen Miller's white supremacist rhetoric puppeteering Trump into actions that can only be called fascist. Unfortunately, we can't get 23 of the 218 Republicans in the House of Representatives to impeach anyone in this corrupt administration. All Republicans have fallen in line and vomit out garbage bills in a continuous stream per Trump's direction. This bill is part of that garbage. Republicans are OK with the violent ICE raids on citizen homes and the killing of citizens. They are OK Trump's language to denigrate the most marginal among us. Our Republican Governor praised Trump, and is in lockstep by calling liberals a hurtful name on January 21st, three times at a tele-town hall with no apology. These facts will be in America's history, along with the Republican names. And this garbage bill will be in the trash pile soon. We know Republicans are sick, and sick people can't control their vomit. Republicans can be reassured that many opposing this bill have hope the Republicans will heal and hope they are well again soon. We all need to reject this federal administration to get well again, and I ask all on the committee to vote against moving this bill forward.

**SANDERS:** Thank you for your testimony. You have-- let's check real quick. Any comments or questions from the committee? See none, thank you for your testimony. Anyone else? Good evening. Welcome.

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**WILLIAM MANHART:** Good evening.

**SANDERS:** The floor is yours.

**WILLIAM MANHART:** I did better this time. I got not last, as I was last year. Good evening. I'm passing out a website for the Williams Institute that did a study on transgender and safety in bathrooms, if any of you are inclined to look at that. It is very, some very interesting reading. Good evening, members of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, my name is William Manhart, W-i-l--W-i-l-l-i-a-m M-a-n-h-a-r-t. I'm here to testify in opposition to LB730. This is yet another year I've had to come down here and testify against these bigoted and divisive, divisive bills that have been brought forth from outside the state of Nebraska to create a distraction from the real issues that are happening, like a \$400 million deficit, property taxes, lack of childcare for working families, and lack of mental-- mental health care in rural Nebraska. I've learned over the years that there are some senators who do care and will fight for every person in the state of Nebraska no matter what sexual orientation or gender they are. And then there are some senators who are more interested in following the whims of the Governor because he has contributed to their-- the senators' political campaigns. I keep hearing the term "common sense" being used, and it is really being watered down in the many times it is being used. I think of a, an allegory that a history teacher made in that before Coper-- Copernicus, common sense was that the sun revolved around the earth. So times change, common sense changes. I would love to know the common-sense solution of who will police bathrooms in schools and state buildings in both the urban and rural areas. Where is the money coming from to police the bathrooms? So I will end by saying this to the people still in the room and the people listening online, that this, this is an election year. During the last election year, 70% or more of Nebraskans voted for medical marijuana, paid sick leave, and increasing minimum wage. It is safe to say that the senators who support LB730 voted against or did everything to thwart the will of the people in each of these ballot initiatives that I mentioned above. To stop bills like LB730 from making it to the floor, vote these senators out. Tell your friends, tell your neighbors. If they're not willing to listen to the will of the people, then it is time for these senators [INAUDIBLE].

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**SANDERS:** Thank you for your testimony.

**WILLIAM MANHART:** Thanks.

**SANDERS:** Let's see if there is any comments or questions.

**WILLIAM MANHART:** I don't think there will be.

**SANDERS:** OK, thank you very much. I think we've got one right here coming up. Thank you. Good evening. Welcome.

**LIA POST:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** The floor is yours.

**LIA POST:** Thank you, my name is Lia, L-i-a, last name Post, P-o-s-t. I'm in firm opposition to LB730. I wanted to tell the senators that I was up at the Capitol recently and one of the senators here asked me, why don't you move? And that was on a different issue, so I'm sure that senator is really thinking, wow, why is that person staying here? And, you know, I don't remember, Coach, if you remember what my reply was, but it was because I fell in love with a Nebraska guy. And here's the beautiful part of the story. My Nebraska trans child fell in love with a Nebraska trans child. Now, how is that? Terrible. I mean, how do you make something negative out of something like that? But I did talk to my husband that, that day, and I told him about it. And, you know, he is retiring. Been working at Gretna since he was 18 years old. So. How long do I stay here and fight in this state? And it's not just this topic, you know? You know what my other passion is, but all that matters today is this. And I will tell you, I will not share my story of my beautiful family with you because most of you don't deserve it. But I will tell you, as a mother, I will shave my head, I will bind myself. I will buy men's clothes at the thrift store and I will test this rule of law until the day I die. So, just another day in Nebraska.

**SANDERS:** Thank you for your testimony. Any questions or comments? Seeing none, thank you for your testimony. Do we have other opponents? Sure got quiet. Stay awake now.

**DAN TIBBITTS:** The green one, yeah. Sorry, this is-- I'm usually outside for [INAUDIBLE].

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**SANDERS:** The floor is yours.

**DAN TIBBITS:** My name is Dan Tibbets, D-a-n T-i-b-b-i-t-t-s. I strongly urge you to oppose LB730. I'm not being hyperbolic or dramatic when I say this, I'm going by textbook definition. We are in the middle of a genocide headed to the worst quickly. We aren't at what you imagine genocide to be: mass killing. There are more patterns, more stages, more steps. Let me walk you through it. Here's a short, incomplete list of countries with transgenocides throughout history or presently. Of course, Nazi Germany's first book burning happened at a transmedical center. Also, we were forced to wear the pink triangle. Turkey, Chile, Brazil, Manimar, Indonesia, Venezuela, Pakistan. Remind me, didn't Trump call most of these countries shitholes and that we're better than them? Recently, the Lemkin Institute of Genocide Prevention released a second red flag warning for transgenocide in the U.S. They state the techniques being used by you guys conformed to the ninth pattern of genocide denial and prevention of identity. And they strongly urge other countries, especially Canada, to offer asylum to trans people fleeing the U.S., and strongly urge trans people to flee. It was in italics and bold and everything. Genocides don't start with mass murder, they start small. There are 10 stages. One, classification. Dividing us into us and them. Check. Two, symbolization. Check. Three, discrimination. Check. It's awkward, we're all in the room right now while you actively perpetuate this one, right? Four, dehumanization. Check. Five, organization. Check. The leaked emails in 2023 between MAGA leaders pushing anti-trans rhetoric, the spike in anti-trans bill, Project 2025, Project Esther, as well as a quarter billion dollars Trump spent spreading lies to prepare his fanboys for violence. Stochastic terrorism is Donnie's favorite move. January 6, oh, and LB730, LB731, and LB732. Six, polarization. Check. Seven, preparation. Victims are identified, separated, and properties confiscated. Eight, persecution. Forced displacement, starvation, or extermination begins. Nine, extermination. Mass killing occurs. Ten, denial. Perpetrators deny the crime, destroy the evidence, and obstruct justice. Your team's really good at number 10. We are somewhere between stage seven and eight. If that doesn't disturb you, you disturb me. But we know you don't care about us, so I'll talk about cis women, your favorite kind of women, depending on your Pornhub history. Cis women, straight cis women, good Christian straight cis women have and will be assaulted because of these bills if or when they're suspected of being trans. Also, if

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trans women are forced to go into the men's restroom, then trans men are forced go into women's restroom. If this passes, then cis men like you guys can go into woman's spaces and claim to be a trans man because trans men look just as manly, if not more than you. But maybe you do want it to be easier for women to be assaulted in women's spaces. Men don't don a dress to assault women in women spaces. Men have been assaulting women and children since the beginning of time and they've never needed a disguise to do it. Hell, sometimes they become president. All of you conservatives go on and on about Christianity. Your own God wants you to be kind, empathetic, welcoming, honest, loving. Most of those rules are in your Ten Commandments. Try following those Ten Commandment, not the Ten Patterns and Ten Steps of Genocide. Thank you. Any questions?

**SANDERS:** Thank you for your testimony. Yep, right on time. Any questions or comments? Seeing none, thank you, Dan, for your testimony. Welcome.

**JENNIFER CATLETT:** Good evening, Chairperson Sanders and members of the committee. My name is Jennifer Catlett, that is spelled J-e-n-n-i-f-e-r C-a-t-t-e-t-t, and I am here to speak in opposition to LB730. I oppose this bill because it does not address actual threats to women's safety and to children's safety, and in the process, encourages real harm to vulnerable adults and children. I was born and raised in Hastings, Nebraska, and I have lived in Nebraska for the majority of my life, and the Midwest in all of it. I don't have any trans people in my family. I have been in the restroom with trans women many times within my life, and I haven't ever felt threatened or confused by their presence in the restroom with me. However, in my early 20s, I was attacked by a man in the women's restroom. He followed me in, pushed me up against the wall and groped me, and it was very clear what he wanted. He was wearing-- I'm so sorry. He was wearing cowboy boots and jeans and a t-shirt and a baseball cap. And there was a sign on that door that said "women's." And he went in anyway. That rule was already in place. Men don't need to have a new rule to stop assaulting women in women's restrooms. What will happen if we make this rule is that people will have an opportunity to question people that they are suspicious of who just want to use the restroom. They-- women who do not fully conform to what we think a woman should look like, men who don't conform to who we think men should look will be questioned, they'll be persecuted, they'll be attacked, they will be discriminated against in the restroom. And it

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needs to be a safe place for everybody. You know, it needs a safe space for all of us. We should be comfortable, we should feel like we can use there-- use the restroom there and be safe. I've lost place in my testimony. But there is no real good way to tell who, what gender this definition fits a person by looking at them. It's hard. It is not something that you can just look at someone. Oh, in some cases you can. In some cases, you can't. I believe most Nebraskans really want to do what is best for their family and for the children, their students, and their neighbors. And I think that most of the Nebraskans that support these bathroom bills feel that way. They want to protect the children and the women in their family and they want to keep them safe. But even the number of exceptions necessary for this bill show that this bill is too inflexible to actually give people the option to do what they think is best. We need to let Nebraskans be who they are and make the right decision for the situation they are in. The definitions are abstract and when faced with reality they will go-- they will be lost and they will not actually serve their purpose. Thank you for your time and I urge you to oppose LB730 for the good of all Nebraskans, and do not advance it to the legislative floor.

**SANDERS:** Thank you, Jennifer, for your testimony. Are there any questions from committee? Seeing none, thank you. Next. Welcome.

**CHRISTY KNORR:** Hi. My name is Christy Knorr, C-h-r-i-s-t-y K-n-o-r-r, like the soup, but you pronounce the K. I've heard a lot of things today. It's really upsetting. I sit here before you as a lesbian, and I just want to assure you, this isn't a choice. This was never a choice. I tried so hard to be straight. Y'all have no idea. Tried so hard because that's what society told me. That's what my church told me. I grew up Southern Baptist. I went to church every Sunday morning, every Sunday night, every Wednesday, I sung in the choir. I was in all the youth stuff. Like, I thought I was going to grow up and be a preacher. But then people kept telling me the only thing worse than being gay was being a child molester and a pedophile. And a murderer, sorry, murderer and child molester, pedophile. Whatever you want to say. So this isn't a choice. The only choice I made was to be true to myself and live for myself. And when I moved to Nebraska, I'm not originally from Nebraska, but I have lived here more than I lived in Georgia, so technically I'm a "Bullske," OK? Bulldog and a Husker together. But I've lived here more. And I felt comfortable enough to be who I truly was when I moved to Nebraska. I can't say that today. I have people that I love dearly, dearly, who are transgender, and I

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promise you, this bathroom bill puts my loved one at risk. I was sexually assaulted when I was a child, and it was not a transgender person. It was not gay person. It was not a drag queen. It was the white, straight men who were supposed to love me and care about me. That's who molested me and sexually assaulted me, not the transgender person in the bathroom with me. Somebody was asking about statistics for Nebraska children, Nebraska lesbian and transgender youth. I was able to pull some numbers for y'all. This is from the Trevor Project study back in 2022. There were 34,000 participants between the age of 13 and 24. I do not know how many of those were from Nebraska, but I can tell you of the ones that responded. I do want y'all to know that there are approximately 5,600 transgender folks in Nebraska. That includes adult and youth. So 4.1 to 4.5% of our population

[INAUDIBLE]--

**SANDERS:** Please continue.

**CHRISTY KNORR:** Thank you. That's from the Williams Institute. I'll get into the Trevor Project. 50% of LGBT-- and these are Nebraska LGBTQIA youth, OK? I am speaking of Nebraska. 50% LGBTQ youth have considered suicide. 15% have attempted suicide. That was in that past year. 73% of LGBTQ youth in Nebraska reported experience-- experiencing symptoms of anxiety. 61% reported experience depression. 58% of LGBTQ youth in Nebraska who wanted mental health care in that past year were not able to get it. 37% experienced harm or threat based on their sexuality and gender identity. 76% experienced discrimination. 7% have been involved in conversion therapy, have had to go to conversion therapy. That's awful. That, that's awful. And 39%, only 39% of our LGBTQIA youth in this state think they are safe in their school and their homes. Let's not make that worse. Please let's not make that worse. If you truly cared about women and children, we'd be talking about feeding them free breakfast and lunch at schools instead of this nonsense. I've been knocking doors. I've talked to well over-- I don't have the exact number, but it's over 1,000, OK, closer to 2,000. And I can promise you, not one person that I have spoken with has told me that they are concerned about trans people in their bathrooms. What they have told me is they're worried about being taxed out of their homes. They want some property tax relief. What they have told me is that they're worried about how they're going to pay their bills. What they have told me, is that they're worry about their health care. They've never said one word about trans people, not one. Please vote against this.

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**SANDERS:** Thank you for your testimony. Questions from the committee?  
See none. Thank you.

**CHRISTY KNORR:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Good evening, welcome.

**SHERI SHULER:** Good evening. Thank you for being willing to stay late. My name is Sheri Shuler, S-h-e-r-i S-h-u-l-e-r, and I am from Omaha. I'm strongly in opposition to LB730. Imagine, if you will, a beautiful but old and dimly lit building. And in its long dark halls, a grown woman follows a little girl around and frightens this little girl. This creepy adult asks invasive questions and calls her a boy and hurts her feelings. And the scariest thing though is when the grownup follows the girl into the bathroom and blocks her from entering a stall. Now imagine this old building with its dimly lit halls is our very own State Capitol. What would happen in this scenario? At the very least, she would be asked to stop. You're frightening children. Maybe security would be called or the State Patrol would ban her. If harassing one little girl is creepy and wrong on an individual level, how is it OK to use legislation to harass thousands of trans people and also encourage others to create a climate of fear and discrimination against transgender people? The consequences are broader than making public buildings off limits to a vulnerable population. The relentless scapegoating of trans people has already directed more hostility their way. It also singles out non-trans folks who don't fit someone's idea of a proper girl or an ideal man. If Jesus Christ himself walked into the men's bathroom with his long hair and his flowing robes, he probably would be questioned in this climate. Several people have already mentioned the 2025 UCLA School of Law reports, so I'm not gonna go over that, but there is a link on your copy. Suffice it to say that not only does this unnecessary law offer no protection to anyone, it actually will cause more suffering. It's disheartening that so many in our body have repeatedly indulged Senator Kauth's crusade. Folks who vote for these bills will often privately agree that they are nonsense, but going along with it means that hundreds of Nebraskans' lives are thrown into chaos year after year. And it's not like this has just been a one-time effort. It's been year after year with this same bill. It fails and then it's back again the next year. Now we're on year four. When is this going to end? Why should trans folks and their parents and loved ones have to drop everything, take time off work, and rearrange our lives to drive

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to Lincoln to plead for basic dignity and access to public spaces? I don't know the reason for Senator Kauth's obsession with trans people, but seeing her resolution for an interim study, it's clear that she still has bigger anti-trans plans in the future, and that is terrifying. Instead of indulging her, maybe get her some help. Do you have an EAP? You have the power to put a stop to this. I urge you not to advance LB730. Don't allow this to take up more of your time when you are sorely needed to work on the real problems that Nebraskans elected you to solve. Thanks.

**SANDERS:** Thank you. Any questions from the committee? Senator Cavanaugh.

**J. CAVANAUGH:** Thank you, Chairwoman. And thanks for being here, Sheri. You brought up the UCLA study, and Will gave us the link, and I was trying to get it up on my computer when he was testifying, so I apologize. I'm having some trouble. But since you brought it up, I'm gonna ask you my question I would have asked him. So the study has this part where it says, we'll just talk about transgender men, and denied access in the last 12 months to women's restrooms, so it's 10.4% of transgender men were denied access to the women's restroom. Under this bill they'd be mandated to use the women's restroom.

**SHERI SHULER:** Correct.

**J. CAVANAUGH:** And so, and then under, let's see, transgender women, the 7% were denied access to the men's restroom. Under this bill, they'd be mandated-- and this is, I mean, I guess I don't know, not reading the whole study. I'm just wondering if I'm reading that right. So, without this, this law in place, there are folks who-- I guess I don't know what happens to those people.

**SHERI SHULER:** Right, where are they supposed to take care of their basic needs, especially when they're at a government building? Last year during debates about LB89, there was a transgender man who went into the women's restroom and supporters of that bill yelled at him and told him to get out. That's the exact bathroom that he was supposed to go into according to the bill. So, yeah.

**J. CAVANAUGH:** Thanks for sharing it.

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**SHERI SHULER:** That link is actually a report that refers to lots of different studies and so, yeah.

**J. CAVANAUGH:** I was reading it off the website that was on the handout that Will Manhart gave us so.

**SHERI SHULER:** There's a lot. Thanks.

**SANDERS:** Any other questions or comments from the committee? Thank you very much for your testimony.

**SHERI SHULER:** Thank you. Good evening.

**JILL BROWN:** My name is Jill Brown, J-i-l-l B-r-o-w-n. Like admittedly, these are really complex and intimate issues that y'all are being asked to make decisions about. I'm trained as a developmental psychologist, and for the last 25 years, I've really just studied how our environments shape human beings. I guess I wanna just come talk about how there are so many ways to be a human, to be person. You all might not know somebody who's trans. There's times in my life I didn't know somebody who was trans. I'm now the mother of a beautiful six-year-old boy who's trans, and I'm partnered with a non-binary-- a person who identifies as non-binary. But I want to tell you a story. There is a Viking tomb in Sweden where a male-bodied person was just unearthed, buried not with the accessories of the typical Nordic burial, but according to the indigenous people's Sami traditions. This is what they found in the tomb. He was also found dressed in conventional male weaponry and tools, laid over a Nordic woman's linen dress and female jewelry, signifying that in 900 AD, a crossing of culture and gender norms existed. But this is not an isolated incident or discovery. In another 10th century grave in Birka, Sweden, an expensively dressed corpse was buried seated and surrounded by a full weapon set, buried with two horses. It was thought to be a high status warrior from the mid-900s, actually deemed as sort of the ultimate Viking of the time. In 2011, an osteological study, however, found that that buried person was actually a female. This was confirmed by a 2017 genomic analysis that, that this person carried two X chromosomes. I don't know if there's archeological evidence of where they had to go to the bathroom or if Vikings were out there calling other-- out other places that were sanctioned by other Vikings to go to the bathroom. But this does show that my Scandinavian ancestors, the Vikings with all of this masculine lore, somehow applied gender

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identity in ways that allowed them to be questioned, undermined, contradicted. Scholars even believe that perhaps a place in Viking society was set aside for trans folks, a place acknowledged through ceremonies like burial. And even celebrated. Trans youth in America in 2026 do not have the status or place in a society that even Vikings afforded their trans brothers and sisters. Societies around the world and across time have found ways to really creatively make dignity and safety for everybody regardless of sex and gender. I guess I just would really encourage you to not let this bill go out of committee, but to really relax and just listen to these people's testimonies. It really impacts them. It really impacts me personally to the point I can't even really talk about it on this committee, you know? And I think that if the Vikings could navigate it, we can navigate it with dignity. Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Thank you. Questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you very much for your testimony. Next. Good evening.

**BENJAMIN HURLBURT:** Hi. Good afternoon, Chair and members of the committee. I apologize, I do not have a copy of my testimony today. But my name is Benjamin Hurlburt, B-e-n-j-a-m-i-n H-u-r-l-b-u-r-t, my pronouns are they/them, and for the last decade, I have been a queer activist and local non-binary drag artist here to strongly oppose LB730. At its surface, this bill is represented as a clarification measure, but in practice is invasive politics negatively impacting Nebraskans. This bill lacks explanation of how schools would be expected to enforce mandates based on sex. How would this be facilitated? Would you, yourselves, recommend admins monitor facilities confirming children's genitals, or would you recommend that they fearmonger students into violating their own peers' privacy? These are not hypothetical questions. These are egregious realities, notably abusive, that will result from rigid definitions that will leave schools scrambling over invasive procedures, displacing the administration efforts away from primary objective: educating our students. Second, the impact this bill would have on well-being is real. Publicized studies from organizations such as Trevor Project show that queer youth already face higher risks of bullying and assault than their peers, risk I've experienced firsthand. As a student, I was sexually targeted in locker rooms numerous times by my own, in this bill's words, male peers, for them purely assuming I was queer. How did it happen? A group of students divided effectively to distract the only admin so that their friends could then target me.

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Why didn't I report it? My life and well-being were threatened. To this day, I avoid public facilities out of fear of what violent individuals might do to me, not the other way around, as even just my hair as a trigger for verbal assault. Simply stated, the real danger in restrooms has never been gender, but the abhorrent lack of prevention and accountability surrounding harassment and sexual violence. And by enacting these definitions, you knowingly will be disrupting already weakened systems that will lead to placing further judgment into the hands of civilians and students retaliating with violent or heinous acts, just as what happened to me. This legislation sends a clear message of intent. LB730 is telling Nebraskans that they are, they are problems to be eradicated rather people to be respected. So I urge you to reject LB730 and instead focus on policies that truly promote safety for every single student. I'm not presumptuous to assume that my time is worth more than yours, but I think that we can all agree that our time can be better spent protecting our schools from yet another year of record-breaking mass shootings or mending broken archaic systems rather than posturing at this hearing over the dignity allowed of a human being at a toilet. Thank you for your time.

**SANDERS:** Thank you for your testimony, Benjamin. I'm gonna check to see if there are any questions from the committee.

**HUNT:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Thank you.

**BENJAMIN HURLBURT:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Next. How many more do we have that would like to testify? OK, be ready. Don't fall asleep. Welcome.

**LUCIAN BLAZEK:** Hello. All right. Dear Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, my name is Lucian Blazek, and i'm a resident of District 9, and I sit before you in opposition to LB730.

**SANDERS:** Lucian, could you please spell it for the record?

**LUCIAN BLAZEK:** Yes.

**SANDERS:** Thank you.

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**LUCIAN BLAZEK:** L-u-c-i-a-n B-l-a-z-e-k.

**SANDERS:** Thank you.

**LUCIAN BLAZEK:** So as an architectural engineering student, I am taught that I need to significant-- that I need significant reasoning, clarity, and documentation backing any decision I make that does not meet adopted codes or standards requirements. Upon seeing this proposal to make adjustments to restroom and locker room facilities, my first thought is to look at what is the existing code that Nebraska requires. In Nebraska, the relevant code is the 2018 Uniform Plumbing Code, UPC. The UPC includes a table which describes the minimum number of water closets/toilets needed and the number of laboratories or bathroom facilities required by code, which is divided into male and female based on occupancy of specific class-- classifications of spaces. So this code tells us exactly when restroom facilities separated by sex are required, which is always in the case-- in the cases that LB730 covers. The same conclusion can be drawn about locker rooms as they are considered bathroom facilities if they include any plumbing fixtures such as toilets, towers-- showers or sinks. However, unlike LB730, our existing law gives additional guidelines about what-- about those requirements and exclusions. With that said, it is clear that these communal, multi-sex locker rooms and bathrooms that Senator Kauth is asking you to address simply do not exist in the state of Nebraska, as those would not meet our existing laws. I understand that Senator Kauth's intent is to ensure privacy and safety of single-sex spaces. Her perspect-- prescriptive method of ensuring that privacy and safety through signage in bathrooms and locker rooms is already thoroughly and adequately addressed in existing law. Next, Senator Kauth asks us to prohibit use by anyone not of a designated sex. This is a performative requirement with no described method to ensure or measure the safety or privacy it calls for. Many of the concerns drawn regarding this topic will still be placed in the same jurisdiction of school, school boards admin-- administration for disputes with no additional guidelines other than an automatic clause that trans people are at fault. Individuals breaking the law, regardless of gender identity, will still have the same legal reper-- repercussions as before. What will change with LB730 is the rights of transgender individuals, intersex individuals, or any individual who doesn't appear congruent with a traditional male or female appearance. If you pass LB730, I will have two options. One is to use the men's restroom. Most likely, those that I have disclosed my identity to will

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simply not be bothered by it. I do not plan to sexually harass anyone in the restroom, and I do no plan to commit crimes in the restroom, so there is no reason for concern. But I will technically be breaking the law. The second option is for me to use the women's restroom. This will be noticeable, and it will make women uncomfortable. The visual shock value of me entering would be much more likely to result in a report to my school's administration. This would cause me to have to disclose my health information in order to protect myself. And ultimately, it would not resolve the issue of women feeling uncomfortable in bathrooms. The assumed third option is that I would use a single-use or family restroom. The reality is we already have issues making these types of restrooms available to the families and people who need them most, and I'm not asking to take someone else's private space. I'm only asking to be able to use the restroom in peace. So please vote in opposition to LB730. Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Thank you, Lucian, for your testimony. Any questions from the committee? See none. Thank you for your testimony. Next. Good evening, welcome.

**KAREN WILLIAMS:** Hi. I'll be brief. I did not prepare anything in advance. My name is Karen Williams, K-a-r-e-n W-i-l-l-i-a-m-s. I'm just here as a concerned parent. I am nearly 65 years old. I have never had a problem with a trans person in the bathroom or otherwise. Ten years ago, I became active in the LGBTQIA+ ally community, and I can tell you that-- I grew up on a farm. I was a very naive young woman when I moved to Lincoln and had no experience with anyone of the LGBTQIA persuasion. And-- up until, like, the ten years ago. And I now am very proudly friends with many, many trans folks. And I can guarantee you you are not at any risk in the bathroom or otherwise. I have to say that overcoming my own ignorance of many of these situations didn't take very long because they are some of the kindest, most generous, loving individuals, and it's shameful to see what their reaction is to these harmful bills. It, it greatly affects them just by having it introduced, let alone passing this kind of garbage. And I just encourage you to please, please put it in the trash where it belongs. Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Thank you for your unwritten testimony and being on the record. Thanks for being out here tonight. Let's check to see if there are any questions from the committee.

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**HUNT:** Thank you for waiting.

**KAREN WILLIAMS:** Yep, that's fine.

**SANDERS:** See none. Thank you very much.

**KAREN WILLIAMS:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Good evening.

**LEAH MIDDENDORF:** Good evening. Seems I wrote on here good afternoon. It's not so appropriate at the moment. Good evening, chairperson and members of the committee. My name is Leah Middendorf. That's L-e-a-h M-i-d-d-e-n-d-o-r-f. And I am here to speak in opposition to LB730. I've lived here in Nebraska for 25 years. I was born of the female sex and I see myself as female. In other words, I am not trans. But because of the repeated push for a bathroom law in Nebraska, I'm increasingly uncomfortable going to the bathroom in public. Because if someone glances at me and thinks my hairstyle is too short, my chest is too small, or I don't wear enough makeup, their first instinct might now be to shout about my genitals and demand proof I'm a woman. And even if state ID was used as a way to prove my sex, I would not want to share my personal information like my name, my address, my date of birth with someone who confronts me in a restroom. And it's unreasonable for me to wait to use any toilet until the police show up. Like other people have stated, there are people in this state with that same fear right now, trans or not, who are depriving themselves of food and water so they don't have to use the bathroom in public spaces. This is not an environment we need to foster in a state that prides itself on being nice. Additionally, this bill does not provide extra protection for women and children. It in fact puts them under increased scrutiny. If anyone is not familiar with the term "transvestigating," they should be now. Even makeup, long hair, and a dress will not spare a woman from having their gender questioned. Jaw lines, noses, having calloused hands like many people do here in Nebraska, and having facial wrinkles have all been treated as telltale signs of a person's sex. So how pretty does a woman have to be to use the restroom in the state of Nebraska? Obviously, this is the third time that this bill has come up, at least in the last four years. I'm starting to wonder if we need an update on the primary concerns of women and girls. People have touched on that already. Something I do want to touch on that was brought up in Senator Kauth's opening

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statement was that a number of states have already passed bathroom bans much like this one. And so I wanted to address the fact that many of the states that have passed these bathroom bans, according to data from the FBI Crime Data Explorer and the ACF-- which is the Administration for Children and Families-- many of these states that have passed bathroom bans are among the top ten states with the most sex offenses as of 2025. This includes states like Utah, Montana, South Dakota. Again, like, if the concern is to protect women and children from sexual violence, I don't believe this is the way to do it. I believe it actually puts more scrutiny on them to conform to what the social expectations are for their visual appearance. Thank you for your time. I urge you all to oppose LB730.

**SANDERS:** Thank you for your testimony. Questions from the committee? Senator Hunt.

**HUNT:** Thank you, Chairwoman. Thanks for coming today. Thanks for your patience and waiting. I'm glad you brought up the term transvestigating because I think in all the years of hearing these bills that might be the first time I've heard it come up in committee. I don't know if my colleagues know what that is because I think this is kind of an online term sort of, but it is definitely coming into the, quote, unquote, real world. But this is sort of the phenomenon of, like, speculating about somebody's gender, like, are they trans or, like, starting rumors that somebody is trans. And it's a direct result of, of bills like this, whether they pass or not. It just puts this kind of zeitgeist and, like, idea into the culture that it's really important to know what people have between their legs. Whereas, like, I think 10, 15, 20 years ago plus, nobody was thinking about that ever. It's just, like, a trendy thing to think about. And there's huge groups of people that think Taylor Swift is trans. And you can find all these articles of all this proof of why she's trans and--

**LEAH MIDDENDORF:** Michelle Obama is another.

**HUNT:** Michelle Obama's a big one. And she's of course faced lots of racist discrimination as well based on her gender too. But, you know, I, I don't mean this in a disrespectful way. I'm saying it factually. Like, I've been transvestigated. Senator Kauth has been transvestigated. Nancy Mace, this congresswoman in D.C., has been transvestigated. There's, like, a whole-- you know, Reddit threads, all kinds of stuff about how Nancy Mace is trans and-- this all comes

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from the culture of these bills being introduced so that it becomes something for people to do detective work about, whether it's about a famous person or a politician or just the person washing their hands next to them in the bathroom. Is, is that what you're talking about that--

**LEAH MIDDENDORF:** Yes. Yeah, that's exactly what I was touching on. And again, I, I have several family members who are victims of child sexual assault. It was not the result of a trans person being in a bathroom. Again, I, I have concern for addressing these problems, but there is no evidence that instituting these bathroom bans leads to a decrease in sexual assault and anything under that umbrella.

**HUNT:** Thank you. I think it increases the hypervigilance that trans people, cisgender people, that everybody has in the bathroom where, you know, it should be a place where you can just have privacy and do your business. But there's this air of, you know, oppressive worry hanging over who's in here with me, where we never thought about that before, so. Thank you.

**LEAH MIDDENDORF:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Any questions? Thank you, Leah. Floor is all yours.

**JANET MORTON:** Hi. My name is Janet Morton, J-a-n-e-t M-o-r-t-o-n. I'm here today as a parent of an eight-year-old transgender daughter. I ask you to consider whether these bills make life easier or harder for families like mine and to oppose LB730. Large-scale harm develops through cumulative policy decisions, not a single act. Under international law, group destruction does not require mass executions. Dr. Gregory Stanton's ten stages framework is used globally to identify early warning signs so lawmakers can intervene before harm becomes irreversible. I would like to explain why LB730, LB731, and LB732 raise those concerns. Stage one, classification, us versus them. LB730 requires the state to define sex strictly as male or female, formally excluding transgender people from full participation in public life. When the law decides who belongs and who does not, unequal treatment becomes easier to administer. Two, symbolization-- or, symbolization. LB730 forces transgender people, including children, to choose between safety and compliance in bathroom and locker rooms. This is state-enforced marking. It invites public scrutiny of who is out of place. Three, discrimination. LB732

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restricts medically recommended care for transgender youth. LB731 expands malpractice liability in ways that discourage providers from offering care at all. History shows that persecution advances through law long before it advances through violence. Four, dehumanization. Supporters of these bills frame transgender people as risks to children and public safety. The rhetoric lowers moral resistance to cruelty and makes exclusion seem reasonable. Five, organization. These harms are not random. LB730 embeds exclusion into schools and agencies. LB731 organizes legal risk through civil liability. Bureaucracy becomes the mechanism. Six, polarization. Doctors, educators, parents, and faith leaders who disagree are silenced or attacked. When moderates are pushed out, escalation accelerates. Seven, preparation. Words like "protecting children" and "biological reality" are used to justify policies that medical experts warn will cause harm. Fear makes cruelty feel necessary. Eight, persecution. LB730 increases harassment, harassment risk in public spaces. LB731 isolates patients and providers. LB732 denies care. The harm is measurable, anxiety, displacement, and rising mental health crisis. Stage nine, destruction without mass killing. Social erasure and policies that deny medical care, force detransition, and make life unlivable-- conditions that increase suicide risk constitute a recognized form of destruction. Ten is denial. Despite evidence and medical consensus, the harm is dismissed, and families like mine are told no one is being hurt. Denial allows the process to continue unchecked and signals risk of further escalation. Will you continue to destroy history-- or, deny history, evidence, and experts? Will your name be listed in future U.S. history education as a contributor, contributor to the legal genocide of transgender individuals? If further acts of violence stem from these bills, are you ready to be held responsible? This framework exists so lawmakers can act early before damage becomes permanent. I'm asking you as Nebraska leaders to choose prevention, reject policies that single out children like mine for exclusion. Protect all Nebraska families. Thank you for your time.

**SANDERS:** Thank you for your testimony. Any questions from the committee? OK. See none. Thank you. Welcome. Floor is yours.

**AUBREE JACOX:** OK. Thanks. My name is Aubree Jacox, A-u-b-r-e-e J-a-c-o-x. I am a trans woman, and it's a fact that I don't like to say to anyone in my life ever if I can avoid it unless, you know, it's, like, a partner or something like that. But, like, my goal in life is generally to blend in. And that is all I want to do. And I

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just want to live my life as it is. When it comes to bathrooms and stuff like that, I can't tell you the level of fear that I have every single time that I use the bathroom in a public space. I used the restroom here today. And again, I feared using that restroom, feared what harassment I may face. I went in, I went to the, to the bathroom as quickly as I could, escaped all eyesight and got the fuck out as quick as I could because, like, that is how it feels every single day. At my work, there's a gender-neutral bathroom in which-- I always use that one as opposed to the women's restroom. However, that bathroom is all the way on the other side of my building, and it's three floors down from my floor while everyone else gets to use a restroom that is 100 feet away from them, relatively speaking, from their office. So that means that I am frequently late to meetings because I have to use the restroom and travel long distances. And I say these things because it's, like, that is kind of like the reality that I face. And the other part of this is just I experience things that I interpret that people who are born, you know, women also experience. I go to the bars a lot-- like, a lot. And I have been followed by men. I have been-- you know, I've had situations where I've been in the bar and I feared that I could not leave because I felt like some man would jump me out because of an experience that they had there. And so you're, like, asking me-- also, just as a fun story, I've also been propositioned by a Nebraska State Legislature male at a bar one time. So, like, fun story there. But I just, like-- like, the thought of going into a men's restroom, like, in the way that I am is exceptionally scary. Like, that's scarier than what I'm currently doing. And I know you've talked a lot about, like, you know, we have to balance the fears of everyone that's here. Like, we have to balance my fears versus the fears of cis women and all of those fears and, like, try and legislate appropriately for all of these people, and I get that. And I totally understand. And the only thing I would say to that is there are more cis people than there are trans people. And the only reason I bring that up is because look at how many people showed up that were cis and cared to be a proponent of this versus how many people showed up and were against this. And so when you talk about balancing these emotions, like, there are more here that care that they just want to use the restroom that they feel the most comfortable in. And that-- that's kind of my point on that. I'll stop there, so.

**SANDERS:** Thank you for your testimony--

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**AUBREE JACOX:** Of course.

**SANDERS:** --for being here this evening. Any questions from the committee? None. Thank you. Next. Floor is yours.

**FELIX HAWKSWELL:** I am Felix Hawkswell, F-e-l-i-x H-a-w-k-s-w-e-l-l. And I didn't come here today to actually speak. I wasn't planning on it, but I was sitting in the overflow room and watching over the camera feed and something that I kind of kept-- kind of occurring to me to wonder here and I didn't see addressed at all was-- and maybe, maybe something has changed since the last time I checked. So if anybody wants to clar-- help me clarify this. Sexual acts-- you know, unconsensual sexual acts like rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment are already illegal, correct? So if somebody were go-- to go into a restroom and attack somebody, somebody else of any gender, any gender identity in such a way, they would already be punished under laws against rape, assault, and harassment, correct? If somebody goes into a bathroom and doesn't do anything to anybody, goes in, goes to the bathroom, washes their hands, and leaves, you want to make that criminal if they don't look the way you think they should look either with their visible appearance or the appearance of their body underneath their clothing? So I guess my question is, is this bill supposed to make something that isn't harmful into a crime and create criminals where there are not already criminals?

**SANDERS:** So, so as a committee, we're not to answer questions.

**FELIX HAWKSWELL:** Ah, I'm sorry. I didn't--

**SANDERS:** However--

**FELIX HAWKSWELL:** --wasn't sure.

**SANDERS:** --Senator Kauth will have a closing that will probably address that.

**FELIX HAWKSWELL:** Oh. That was another question I had, is that, is Senator Kauth aware that rape, harassment, and assault are illegal?

**SANDERS:** So Senator Kauth is here--

**FELIX HAWKSWELL:** If she could--

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**SANDERS:** --but she can address that in her closing.

**FELIX HAWKSWELL:** OK. Thank you. That'd be great. Because I wasn't sure, so. It kind of seemed like she didn't-- wasn't aware-- aware that those are already illegal. But I did have-- I really wanted to talk when Senator Cana-- Cavanaugh, you brought up that the, the study where it said that trans people with trans men have been denied access to women's facilities. And I apparently learned today that I am a minor-- minority within my own, own minority because I am one of those men. I've literally-- I'm literally facing that at work right now because I was-- and it also got brought up right before I started talking. I was transvestigated at work recently. One of my coworkers heard through the grapevine apparently that I'm trans. And-- I guess there's a reason why they call bigotry ignorance. He came to the conclusion that I am a pre-op, pre-transition trans woman, that I was born male and am transitioning or see myself as female. And so he went to another coworker of mine-- who herself is a cisgender female-- and asked her if I used the women's restroom and whether that made her uncomfortable. And she thankfully came to-- straight to me to tell me what was going on because this coworker has no business talking about my personal business. And if he had, you know, concerns, that's what HR is for, not random other colleagues. Problem is, though, I'm not a trans woman. I am a trans man. I use the men's restroom because that's where I feel comfortable. Because it doesn't matter. And-- I'm sorry. It's, it's absolutely wild to me that this is a thing that I'm having to deal with right now. I just go to a building and run a hydraulic press to bend steel. Why does it matter what restroom I go into? I'm an adult. I can tell the difference between a sexual, you know, situation and a nonsexual situation. Like-- and, like, with children-- like, the example of, oh, if a seven-year-old girl goes into a bathroom and sees a man in a dress, wai-- and she's uncomfortable-- my question is, well, children are afraid of things that don't hurt them all the time. You know, what are we gonna legislate next, the dark? The boogeyman? Broccoli. I'm afraid of dogs. Should I be lobbying to have them banned? It's like if somebody is in a bathroom when your kid is, like, oh, this person's here and they're-- you know, they, they don't look how I expect them to look and that makes me uncomfortable, it would be the parent's then job to explain to them, well, some people just look different. Like, I've literally-- one of my baby sisters asked me what was wrong with that guy because there was a guy in line at a, a, a, you know, at a Wal-- at McDonald's who was missing

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his arm just above the elbow. Kids don't understand things, and that's OK. You just tell them as your parent or as a guardian or who-- as an adult, well, some people just look different, and that's OK. If-- and if that adult actually is there to hurt them, that's already illegal.

**SANDERS:** Thank you for your testimony.

**FELIX HAWKSWELL:** Yep.

**SANDERS:** Any questions from the committee? See none. Thank you very much.

**FELIX HAWKSWELL:** Yep. Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Next. Good evening.

**LUCIA SALINAS:** Good evening. My name is Lucia Salinas, L-u-c-i-a S-a-l-i-n-a-s. The supposed reason for this bill's existence is to reduce the risk of sexual assaults, so I'd like to share some experiences and statistics. According to RAINN, the nation's largest organization fighting sexual violence and operator of the National Sexual Assault Hotline, 93% of sexual assaults against children are done by someone known to the victim: 59% of total assaults are done by acquaintances, and 34% were done by family members, and only 7% are done by strangers. I am a member of the 34%. It is not a secret within the family which members are perpetrators of sexual abuse, yet those are the ones that get invited to family outings while I've been shunned for being queer and nonreligious. The same family members who would still allow these well-known predators around their kids would be the ones saying that my trans wife shouldn't enter the bathroom within government buildings. They see her and queer women like me as threats even though they actively invite abusers to family outings with children present. So if you really care about protecting children, teach them that penis and vagina are not bad words so that they can reach out to a school counselor or another trusted adult so that they can speak to the authorities together. The biggest risk to children is not a-- less than 1% of the population. It is not having the language to say "my cousin made me kiss their penis." It's not keeping those cousins away from the rest of the family. It's telling kids, don't tell the school about family issues. My assault didn't happen in a bathroom. It happened while I was being babysat by a family member at their house. So rather than passing a bill that

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targets trans people as well as anyone who is not stereotypically feminine or masculine, why not encourage more funding for counselors in schools to teach about consent and abuse? Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Thank you for your testimony, Lucia. Check to see if there are any questions, comments from the committee. See none. Thank you. You've probably been waiting five, six hours.

**LUCIA SALINAS:** Mm-hmm.

**SANDERS:** Much appreciation. Thank you for being on the record.

**LUCIA SALINAS:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Thank you. Any other testimony? Are there any other testimonies? I see-- you-- OK. So you're not the last. Thank you for waiting.

**AUDREY ANDERSON:** Thank you. My name is Audrey Anderson, A-u-d-r-e-y A-n-d-e-r-s-o-n. And I am representing myself. Senators, I implore you to vote no on LB730. In Governor Pillen's State of the State Address this year, he spoke about stopping the brain drain in Nebraska. But a few sentences later, he said that Nebraska's not a welcome place for the misguided people who want diversity, equity, and inclusion in their schools and state. He said other places work. I'm taking him up on that offer. You should not want me to leave. I am a Nebraskan. This is where I was born and raised. I've been proud to represent this state as a high school student winning national scholarships and science fair competitions. Many of these awards didn't have representation from the Midwest, let alone Nebraska. I earned over \$100,000 and could have gone anywhere for college, but I chose to reinvest my earnings into Nebraska by attending UNL. In college, I was highly involved in many clubs, obtained internships, and dedicated myself to my education. I made the Dean's List every semester and graduated with distinction. I was an exceptional student and accomplished the rare achievement of publishing three research papers as an undergraduate. Once again, I chose to stay in Nebraska to start my career. I currently work as an engineer to protect your homes from floods and to provide clean drinking water. I'm not trying to brag but emphasizing that I'm not misguided or a goober. I am someone you should want in this state, but I'm choosing to leave because of bills like LB730 and LB731 and LB732 because, if these pass, there

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will not be a safe place for me. I'm often at schools or state buildings, places where I will need to use the restroom. For me especially, I'm prescribed a medication for a nongender-related health condition that causes me to need to use the restroom more frequently. I simply cannot wait an entire day to use a safe restroom at home. Last year, I testified for the first time against LB89. The chairperson thanked me and said she expected to see me again. While I believe the statement was meant as a compliment, I can't help but think it's an unfortunate predictor of the truth. If LB730 doesn't pass this year, will there, will there be another attempt? Will I have to come down to the Capitol every year to plead for my dignity? I cannot plan to live in a state that does not want me here. I still don't understand why there's such hate towards the transgender community. It's OK to be wary of something you don't know or understand, but that does not excuse the oppression of those people. I'm not leaving this state because of taxes or lack of jobs or the brutal weather. I'm leaving because of the threats against nonbinary and transgender Nebraskans. I don't want my tax dollars to fund the persecution of me and my loved ones. And Senator Lonowski, I'm actually dating one of your former students. I don't want to have to look at the law every time I use the restroom. I want to live in a state where I have dignity and safety, and I hope in the future it can be Nebraska again. Please vote no on LB730. And thank you for your time.

**SANDERS:** And thank you for your testimony. Check to see if we have any questions, comments. Senator Guereca.

**GUERECA:** Just want to congratulate you on your academic achievement. And, and we're less off with you leaving, so hopefully, you know, you can come back [INAUDIBLE].

**AUDREY ANDERSON:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Any other questions, comments? See none. Thank you very much.

**AUDREY ANDERSON:** Thank you.

**SANDERS:** And. Floor is yours.

**JILL DIBBERN MANHART:** Thank you. Good evening, Chairperson Sanders and the members of the Government, Military and Veteran Affairs Committee. My name is Jill Dibbern Manhart, J-i-l-l D-i-b-b-e-r-n M-a-n-h-a-r-t.

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This is year number four. Let that sink in for a moment. Four years of me taking time off of work, spending countless hours writing testimony, meeting with senators, not to mention the stress and worry caused by bills like this, bills brought by the senator to strip away the humanity of trans children and now all trans Nebraskans. I sat here and testified to this same committee last February in a packed room that heard testimony until almost midnight. There were around 20 proponents and over 100 opponents who testified. At the end of the evening, Chairperson Sanders, you shared that the online comments were 471 proponents, 1,547 opponents. Over a three-to-one against that bill. In a normal world, a world of common sense, this would give pause to committee members and be information that would cause them to not vote out a bill, a bill that affects less than 1% of Nebraska's population. But unfortunately, we are not in a world of common sense, instead a world that makes no sense. First, it was stripping away health care decisions from trans children and their families. You as politicians decided health care under the guise of protecting trans children. Next, it was stripping away the right from trans children from playing sports with their peers. Suddenly, those same children that you stated you were protecting by taking away health care decisions, now you decided those children no longer needed or deserved your protection. It was their peers who needed protection from them. So the few trans children who were playing sports and having the experience of being a part of a team are no longer afforded the same rights as their classmates. Slowly and methodically you strip away piece by piece by piece every right they have to live the same life as your children. And today in this hearing, well, you're saying those same children you were trying to protect now cannot have the basic divi-- dignity to use the bathroom without scrutiny by others. This, my friends, is erasure. Erasure of trans children and trans Nebraskans. This is the dehumanization of people who are just trying to live their lives. The senator has brought three anti-trans bills this year as well as conducting a study on whether affirming trans children is child abuse. Think about that. Child abuse. You see it will never be enough when a society decides that it's OK to begin slowly stripping away little by little the rights of one population, the basic rights of that population to merely exist in this world. We have begun a genocide. I know that word may not make you feel comfortable, but look up its meaning. It's an attempt to wipe out a specific group of people. Bills like this pull at every fiber of their being until their existence vanishes. I know that many senators on the

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legislative floor like to tout religion and cite their favorite Bible verse to justify their decision to dehumanize a child. But I ask you, when will it be enough for you? At what point will you decide that your decisions have hit the tipping point for your conscience? Is that moment when trans children no longer exist in our state, in our society? You each must ask yourself these questions. What kind of person are you comfortable being? And I'll say, I've heard this over and over tonight-- and I, I hope that you really listen-- people are talking about genocide. I've been here four years and I've never heard that brought up before. So take that and think about that. Genocide. Because this is a warning. This is a warning for our fellow Nebraskans that you claim you care about, that you're trying to protect. So I urge you to not vote out this bill out of committee. Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Thank you for your testimony. Are there any questions from the committee? Comments? See none.

**HUNT:** I have one real quick.

**SANDERS:** Senator Hunt.

**HUNT:** Thank you. Just briefly, I wanted to thank you for your dedication to standing up for these kids for all these years and for naming the way it has snowballed over those four years into something that's more dangerous than when we were just talking about it at first. So thank you.

**SANDERS:** Thank you. Are there any other opponents? Any neutral testimony? With that, we will close the hearing on LB730 with a closing from Senator Kauth. And the online comments for the record is 193 proponents, 513 opponents, and 3 in the neutral.

**KAUTH:** Thank you very much, Chair and committee. Thank you all for sticking around. I do know Senator Meyer went to the steak dinner, so we'll have to give him some heck about that. Lots of, of interesting testimony. This bill is clearly about privacy and safety based on sex-segregated spaces. This beal-- bill deals with facts, not the feelings about it. And I was really almost stunned. There was such a distinct disregard for every other person in those intimate spaces. We heard testimony saying, well, this doesn't happen in Nebraska, it's not happening to Nebraskans, you have people from outside Nebraska coming to testify. I had people from Nebraska here testifying. I had a

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dad almost in tears talking about how this impacts his daughter. And that was completely disregarded. Not one single testifier cares about the girls and women in those bathrooms other than themselves. That's very disappointing. There, there are a lot of-- a lot of hysterical comments about genocide. This is not genocide. This is saying that the fact is there are two sexes, and the person talking about the archeological digs proved it. After thousands of years, you can still tell an XX and an XY. They're different. Protecting people who are trans-identified should not translate into putting females in harm's way. The deflections from, from dealing with these bills and se-- talking about property taxes, I hope people understand that all of us do many, many more bills. We are all busy with multi-- I think probably ten bills each this session. There are 545 new ones added in this short session. We introduce the things that our constituents talk to us about. Let me tell you, my constituents and most of Nebraska call me about this. Last year during the LB89 hearings and the, the rest of the time we were getting that bill out, I had about once a week a parent or a student call me and ask me, what can I do? My school is telling me I'm the one who has the problem. That's not OK. I had parents pulling their kids from school. And when we look at how many people comment or how many people show up, the parents who I talked to and the kids I talked to were scared. I had a mom who reached out to me with an anonymous email. She went to great lengths to disguise the fact that she did not want anyone to know what was going on. It took several, several conversations with her by email before she would finally trust me enough to do a phone call and talk with her about her specific school. The pressure to, to be supportive and to not say that this bothers me is huge. And if we're worried about people-- how people feel in bathrooms, why is it that the people who belong in that bathroom of that sex are not also listened to? We heard girls saying, yes, my daughter-- well, the dad said, my daughter would hold it all day long. Because she was told she would have to go find another place. The boy who wanted to come into her bathroom was granted full rights. He could also go into the boy's bathroom. She was the one who was punished. That's not acceptable. We had a lot of people talking about brain drain and this is going to chase people away. And I would maintain that taking a stand and saying biological sex is an important distinction in this state might be comforting to some people. It might make some people say, hey, you know what? I like that. I think my family will be better protected there. I look at what's happening in Colorado. In Colorado, they have-- there are four

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senators putting together a bill to remove parental rights from someone who does not affirm their child. And that's what my LR for this summer is talking about. We are at a critical moment in our society, and we have to determine which is more important, actual facts or transitory feelings about those facts? And I know a lot of people this is a lifestyle or this is something that they will deal with permanently, but it's their issue. It should not be infringing on other people's rights. So with that, I am open to questions.

**SANDERS:** Questions from the committee? We're all so tired. Senator Andersen.

**ANDERSEN:** Yeah. Thank you, Chairwoman. And thank you, Senator Kauth, for being here. So I was just kind of looking at the, the different reactions and the amount of time and everything else and looking at different testifiers. I really appreciate the, the patience by everybody that, that stayed here the whole time. It, it is a long day, just like we've had. We've had approximately six and a half hours of testimony, and the first three in-- three and a quarter hours, as I estimate it, was mixed, both opponents and proponents. The last three and half hours was about-- 50% of the testimony was exclusively about transgender, transgender rights, transgender genocide, all these different things about transgenderism. In looking at the bill, can you tell me how many times in this bill that it actually addresses transgender or transgenderism or anything relating to transgenders?

**KAUTH:** Zero.

**ANDERSEN:** So it's not in the bill at all. There's no--

**KAUTH:** It's not in the bill at all.

**ANDERSEN:** --preference to transgender. It's simply about bathrooms and--

**KAUTH:** This is saying that if you're a boy, you go into a boy's bathroom or a locker room. If you're a girl, you go into a girl's bathroom or locker room. If you're a male prisoner, you are in a male prison. If you're a female prisoner, you're in a female prison. The places that we expect to have privacy and intimacy should remain sex segregated.

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**ANDERSEN:** So it's kind of more of a, a diversionary tactic of changing the conversation--

**KAUTH:** Yes.

**ANDERSEN:** --to something that's not contained in the bill.

**KAUTH:** I believe so.

**ANDERSEN:** Thanks. I've got one more question, if you'd indulge me. There was a gentleman earlier, a Mr. Black who testified. He was agitated-- I was gonna say angry, but agitated. And said that he had contacted you and that he had met with you and, and he said that you excluded his experts and refused to listen. Do you care to share any context and to provide any, any more background about that? I, I know what he said is really one-sided, so I want to give you the opportunity to provide context to that.

**KAUTH:** Sure. Dr. Black is a social worker locally. And he called, wanted to talk about the bill, was concerned and accusatory that our studies were invalid and wanted to see that-- our studies. And I was able to-- after talking with him on a Zoom call, my experts, the people who I depend on for this kind of research and deep medical knowledge were able to provide him with lists of 17 systematic, systematic reviews proving that all of the studies he was using for his, his treatment were of such poor quality that they should not be used. He wa-- and two other people were on the call, on the Zoom call, and seemed to be very offended that I brought ex-- I told them I would have, you know, the experts that I talked with on the call as well, and they seemed very offended that they were from outside Nebraska, which I'm not quite sure what that indicates. If, if we only trust Nebraskans, well, then I think we should trust Dr. Greg Brown who was here, who is a renowned scientist globally on this topic. So dismissing that what you don't want to hear and only accepting what you want to hear is unfortunately a problem with this topic.

**ANDERSEN:** So only [INAUDIBLE] weren't defensible and that's why he got agitated.

**KAUTH:** Yes.

**ANDERSEN:** Thank you.

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**SANDERS:** Senator Ca-- Cavanaugh.

**J. CAVANAUGH:** Thank you, Chair. Thanks for sticking around. So I, I do-- I like what you just said there is that we dismiss the things that we don't like. And you started out by saying that everybody who came opposed to the bill only cared about themselves and not others. I would tell you, I, I-- my habit is I take at least some-- one note on every single person. There were 64 people who testified against this bill, 13 people who testified in favor. I-- you know, I did think that Mr. Jacobsen's testimony was, was moving. I would ask you to rethink the testimony that you heard here from the opponents. Many of them were not trans people themselves but were the parents of trans people-- so people who were similarly situated to Mr. Jacobsen-- who feel the way about their kids that he felt about his kid. So I-- that's just-- that's my comment, I guess, that, you know, this-- we do need to put in perspective that folks have-- there are-- were raw feelings here, admittedly. Expressed a lot of raw feelings. But I do-- I would just ask you to think about the fact that there are parents on the side who oppose this bill. And you're being a little bit reductive and dismissive of the feelings of parents. So for what that's worth and what that might help you in terms of, of how you proceed going forward. But my question is, well, what is the enforcement mechanism?

**KAUTH:** The same enforcement mechanism that you have for any other rule or regulation in a school or in a building. It's-- the-- this is kind of the, you know, the threat of genital inspections or we'll have to have someone there. How do you have someone there proving that someone really does believe that they are the opposite sex? You don't have a psychiatrist posted at the door. So if we're talking about enforcement mechanisms-- again, it's-- these are the rules and the regulations in place. You heard some people saying, I will deliberately disobey the law and try to thwart the law to poke holes in it.

**J. CAVANAUGH:** That was Ms. Post. And, and those of us around here know Ms. Post is prone to that type of--

**KAUTH:** Well-- and, and-- which, which is fine, but, but that's a very rare minority. Most people will follow the law because, again, we are in a high-trust society. And when you know what those rules and regulations are, you have much more certainty. I think we will actually reduce the number of people who are questioning because if we know that that's the law and the law says you're not supposed to be in

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there, they're going to look at someone and go, oh, well, it probably is a woman if it's in the woman's bathroom.

**J. CAVANAUGH:** OK. So that's-- so there's no more of an enforcement mechanism. It is-- it's just sort of everybody is supposed to follow the law.

**KAUTH:** Correct. Policies and procedures in the schools. Kids vape in the school bathrooms. That is also against the law. What happens when they're caught? They have a policy and procedure how to deal with that. The Nebraska Association of School Boards is a-- has come up with language that they can use to help with this in schools who enforce it.

**J. CAVANAUGH:** Would this apply to this building?

**KAUTH:** Yes.

**J. CAVANAUGH:** And what is the enforcement mechanism in this building?

**KAUTH:** I would think just the signage.

**J. CAVANAUGH:** OK. Have you taken the opportunity to look at the University of California, Los Angeles Williams Institute study that was shared with us?

**KAUTH:** I'm-- I've got the link, so.

**J. CAVANAUGH:** OK. So I-- you heard me read it to, I think, Ms. Shuler. And, and currently-- so this is just the one example-- transgender men. 10.4% of transgendered men are denied access to a women's restroom. Under your law, they would be required, if they are trying-- if they are complying with the law, they, they would be required to use the women's restroom. 10.4% are denied access to women's restrooms.

**KAUTH:** And how is that enforced? Does it talk about that?

**J. CAVANAUGH:** That's a great question, and that's the question for someone who is attempting to require it.

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**KAUTH:** So-- and, and when you say a transgender man, you mean, mean a woman who believes that she's male. Is that correct? So she would need--

**J. CAVANAUGH:** Well, that's not the way I would characterize it, but if that helps you in the conversation.

**KAUTH:** Well-- so it's a woman, so she would go into the woman's bathroom, correct?

**J. CAVANAUGH:** And by this study, 10.4% of those people are denied access to a women's restroom.

**KAUTH:** And does it say why? Does it say any more information about it?

**J. CAVANAUGH:** I-- you can read the study for yourself. I'm asking-- I'm just asking you if-- grant the premise: 10.4% are re-- are denied access, where are those people supposed to go to the bathroom?

**KAUTH:** Again, that's, that's going to have to be part of the education that they are allowed to use that bathroom.

**J. CAVANAUGH:** OK.

**SANDERS:** Senator Lonowski.

**LONOWSKI:** Thank you, Senator Sanders. And thank you for-- thank you for answering the questions. I also took some copious notes, Senator Kauth. I do want to point out that Aubree Jacox, Jacox was-- did say he understands both sides of this and, and realizes there's issues. I have some questions about schools. So we had LPS and OPS weigh in. Did any other schools send you information or, or weigh in or ask, like, how do we resolve this or anything? Can you give me any information on that?

**KAUTH:** I've had quite a few superintendents quietly tell me they would prefer that we just pass the law so they can know what to do and have the instructions on how to do it. Quite a few of them are, are concerned that this keeps going on. I am concerned that LPS and OPS are at huge risk for losing federal funding by them making public statements that they support men in women's locker rooms and bathrooms and women in men's locker room and bathrooms.

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**LONOWSKI:** So, so there's federal funding tied to it.

**KAUTH:** Yes.

**LONOWSKI:** Is that, is that funding that would help us build individual stalls?

**KAUTH:** Mm-hmm. I mean, they can use it for, for whatever they want. But if you lose it, then the state is going to be asked to help fund school at a higher rate.

**LONOWSKI:** OK. And, and, I guess in my mind, individual stalls gives everybody some sort of privacy and if--

**KAUTH:** The singles-- the single--

**LONOWSKI:** The, the problem is now schools don't want an unfunded mandate, so.

**KAUTH:** Correct.

**LONOWSKI:** OK. Thank you.

**KAUTH:** Which is why we wrote it the way it's written, so that each school can figure out what, what works best for their particular school.

**LONOWSKI:** OK. Thank you.

**KAUTH:** You're welcome. I-- can I make one more comment? Addressing what John said-- pardon me-- Senator Cavanaugh said about kids feel the way-- or, parents feel about their kid the way Justin feels about his kids. And that is why it is so necessary to have this law, because we need to put certainty back into it so that kids are not being expected to deal with it on their own when they are confused about why someone is in the bathroom who shouldn't be. And this will help with that.

**SANDERS:** I have a question from Senator Hunt.

**HUNT:** Thank you. Thank you, Senator Kauth. I have a question about the practicality of implementation. So if this bill passes, how do you-- how do you solve the problem or do you see it as a problem when we

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have, you know, gruff, scruffy, bearded, 55-year-old trans men in the women's room with little girls, with me, with you?

**KAUTH:** Well, I think one, one of the testifiers said it best. You explain to your kids that, that people look different.

**HUNT:** So--

**KAUTH:** So why would you not have them stick to the bathroom of their sex?

**HUNT:** So you like the future where trans men who are gruff, scruff, tough, muscular, bearded going in the women's room because maybe they were born with a vagina and that-- you like that future because that's when we tell our kids, well, that person is trans, but they're a female-to-man transgender person so they have to use this restroom with us. That's the future you prefer?

**KAUTH:** As opposed to what?

**HUNT:** As opposed to what we have today where people use the restroom that identifies with their gender that they're comfortable with.

**KAUTH:** Well-- so you're depending an awful lot on looks, which is part of the problem, is that this is a lot of stereo--

**HUNT:** But, but the looks aren't going to change. No one's-- these people look this way. The looks aren't going to change.

**KAUTH:** Right. But what I'm saying is, if, if you're basing who goes in where on how they look, that's very subjective. And that's why we need an objective criteria, which is sex.

**HUNT:** But the problem is that there's no objective test for implementing or, or enforcing this law because, as these trans men I'm describing are in the restroom with us, if this is the law of the land at that time, would you just assume to you that's a woman? Will you say some women look like that? Is that your view?

**KAUTH:** Isn't that what you're doing now when, when--

**HUNT:** No, that's not what I'm doing now. I would say, why is there a man in the women's restroom?

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**KAUTH:** OK. So-- but a man pretending to be a woman is a man in a woman's restroom.

**HUNT:** I'm talking-- well, in this-- pardon-- to use your worldview-- I'm talking about a woman pretending to be a man.

**KAUTH:** Mm-hmm.

**HUNT:** I'm talking about a person who was assigned female at birth, who transitioned, who is now looking like someone from Hell's Angels-- which we've had people like that testify here before-- and you see them in the women's restroom. That's the future that you would like?

**KAUTH:** I don't see how it's different than the future now where you have someone who is a male pretending to be female in the women's restroom. I mean, that's-- it's-- we're saying the exact same thing, which is why it's subjective. And so you need objective criteria to know that, if someone is in that bathroom, they are a male or they are a female based on what the bathroom is.

**HUNT:** Do you want to be in the bathroom with a big, tough, bearded guy? Do you want your, your granddaughter-- I don't know--

**KAUTH:** No, which is why I think that men should be in men's bathrooms.

**HUNT:** OK. Do you get that if this--

**KAUTH:** A big, tough, bearded guy--

**HUNT:** Do you get that-- hold on. Do you get that if this law passes you will be in the bathroom with a big, tough, bearded guy?

**KAUTH:** No, I will be in the bathroom with a big, tough, bearded woman.

**HUNT:** OK. And that's your preference? You want, you want them in there?

**KAUTH:** I think going based on biology and sex versus what someone looks like is a much better--

**HUNT:** OK. Oh. Good. Thank you. Claro. Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Any other question? Senator Andersen.

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**ANDERSEN:** Yeah. Thank you, Chairwoman. Senator Kauth, I, I think, I think one of the challenges is no-- you can, can twist it any way you want. You can talk about the-- you're going have a bearded, somebody looking like a man that's actually a woman in a woman's bathroom, or you can talk about some of the NCAA athletes who had talked about having a fully functional male pulling off a bathing suit, you know, feet away from them and walk on-- and there was a testimony earlier about, about people doing inappropriate things-- and the opposite gender, which would be illegal and you would go to jail if you went out to a park or-- and did the same things. I think the-- so the-- I understand where Se-- you know, Senator Hunt's trying to go, but I think she's trying to twist it to make it fit her story as opposed to looking what-- at what the common descriptor of what has happened in the past is.

**KAUTH:** I would agree.

**SANDERS:** Any other questions or comments? This-- close the hearing on LB730. Thank you, everyone who stayed to the end.