

March 28, 2024

Governor Laura Kelly
300 SW 10th Ave., Ste. 241S
Topeka, KS 66612-1590

Dear Governor Kelly,

Yesterday, both chambers of the Kansas Legislature passed a bill that represents a full-frontal attack on civil liberties, the right of Kansans to make private medical decisions without government intervention, and the rights of transgender Kansans. The bill, SB 233, is rooted in medical misinformation and transphobia. It would be deeply harmful to Kansas kids, families, public employees, and communities. We are grateful to you for the strong, consistent stand that you have taken to defend the rights of transgender Kansans and in safeguarding civil liberties. We respectfully request that you continue to protect the rights of all Kansans by vetoing SB 233.

SB 233 is an extreme bill that bans gender affirming care in Kansas by threatening healthcare providers with civil action and the loss of their professional licensure should they provide this necessary, lifesaving care to people under the age of 18. This bill places politicians' feelings and opinions above the expert medical advice of hundreds of thousands of doctors represented by all major medical associations in the United States. Doctors, nurses, and healthcare providers will be punished just for doing their jobs—providing care to young people.

Not only does this bill endanger the lives and well-being of trans children by keeping them from receiving a proven medical treatment, but it discriminates on the basis of sex and transgender status, thereby infringing on the fundamental rights of Kansas children and their parents. This bill violates the constitutional rights of Kansas children, young adults, and their parents by stripping them of their right to bodily autonomy under the Kansas constitution and their equal protection and due process rights under the U.S. Constitution.

Similar bills that endanger children and deprive parents and families of medical freedom have been adopted in other parts of the country. SB 233 is *even more* extreme and dangerous than those bills. For example, it prohibits state employees from “provid[ing]” or “promot[ing]” social transitioning to young people. The bill defines “social transitioning” as including actions as simple as allowing youth to dress in a manner that reflects their gender or calling someone by the pronouns they request, including in cases where parents use those same pronouns. Public employees will be guilty of breaking the law—and could be subject to discipline and discharge—for showing basic respect to the young people with whom they work.



PO Box 13048
Overland Park, KS 66282
(913) 490-4100
aclukansas.org

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This bill has no place in our state. It is cruel, extreme, harms and discriminates against transgender Kansans, and deprives Kansans of the right to make private medical decisions. For those reasons, we ask you to veto SB 233. We at the ACLU of Kansas stand ready, with our partners and allies across the state, to work tirelessly to sustain a veto on this bill. Thank you for your continued championing of a public policy agenda that works for and defends the rights of all Kansans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Micah W. Kubic". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Micah W. Kubic, Ph.D.
Executive Director

