



April 15, 2021

Honorable Laura Kelly, Governor  
Attn: Constituent Services, Rm. 264-W  
300 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Governor Kelly,

Kansas is well-known as a state that spurs job creation, encourages investments, and attracts families. You played a critical role in creating and sustaining a business, tax and regulatory climate that's the envy of many states.

Our business-friendly reputation and economy are at risk if we choose a path that encourages bullying and discrimination against transgender youth. We ask you to reject this discriminatory, pro-bullying bill, SB 55.

As Kansas business leaders, we have an obligation to our employees, customers, shareholders and Kansas communities we serve to oppose discriminatory legislation that jeopardizes the positive environment for our Kansas businesses.

Respectfully, we are concerned that anti-transgender and other similar discriminatory bills are solutions in search of a problem. We are steadfastly opposed to discriminatory legislation and any legislation that promotes bullying.

This bill divides Kansans more than it unites us. We are ready for a better story for our state.

**DISCRIMINATORY LEGISLATION THREATENS KANSAS COLLEGE SPORTS.** According to the Kansas Board of Regents, the passage of SB 55 could affect the state's ability to host National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) events. This vibrant industry would suffer decline if Kansas loses its reputation as a welcoming destination for all athletes and spectators.

The Kansas State High School Activities Association already addresses fairness in their policy governing the inclusion of transgender students. Since 2011, the NCAA has had a transgender inclusion policy governing colleges and universities around the country, including those in Kansas. These policies have worked well to provide opportunities for our young people.

**DISCRIMINATORY LEGISLATION NEGATIVELY IMPACTS OUR ABILITY TO RECRUIT TOP TALENT.** Millennials overwhelmingly support non-discrimination protections, and seek to live in states that promote the diversity and inclusion they value. We are in global



competition for talent, and our ability to recruit and retain our future workforce is critical to long-term economic prosperity.

That's why we oppose unnecessary legislation that will hurt our vibrant economy in Kansas.

We believe everyone should be treated with dignity and respect, and we are proud of our companies' track records on creating diverse workforces and inclusive work environments.

Our businesses, our employees, and their families represent the great diversity of our state. We stand together to oppose legislation that would hurt our businesses, their families, and transgender youth.

Sincerely,

The undersigned members of the Kansas business community:

Aaron J. Lybrand, LMFT - Wichita  
AB&C Bilingual Resources - Wichita  
BNV Printing  
Bombshell Lash - Wichita  
Bon Bon - Lawrence  
Breathe Physical Therapy - Wichita  
Center of Daring - Wichita  
Choosing Wholeness - Wichita  
College Hill Deli - Wichita  
Encompass Massage Therapy - Sedgwick County  
Espresso to Go Go - Wichita  
Flint Hills Strategies  
Free State Nutrition - Lawrence  
Gleason Chiropractic - Goodland  
Headcase Salon - Wichita  
ICT Workroom - Wichita  
Kreider Consulting, LLC - Lawrence  
M-Care Healthcare - Wichita  
McKenzie & Associates, LLC - Wichita  
Peace, Love, and Therapy - Wichita  
Pink Flamingo - McPherson  
Raeco Group - Wichita  
Reverie Coffee Roasters - Wichita  
Safari Investments - Wichita  
The Burger Stand at the Casbah - Lawrence  
The Burger Stand Topeka - Topeka  
The Cider Gallery - Lawrence