

Committee members,

In the interest of brevity, I will state that I support this bill, House Bill 1522.

Perhaps the greatest imperative we have as parents, grandparents, and even, in my case, great grandparents, is the duty to speak out or act to protect our descendants from harm.

In jurisdictions where biologically male students have been allowed to declare themselves female and share facilities where full or partial nudity is common, be those bathrooms, locker rooms, showers, there have already been serious issues, up to and including rape. (Loudon County, VA).

First and foremost, we should protect our children from that life-changing trauma, especially insofar as that is possible. This Bill engenders such an environment which would be conducive to that protection, helping prevent situations which would conceivably lead to incidents like those in Virginia and elsewhere. With a rational vote, all that misery and strife can be avoided, and even unwarranted accusations avoided by not fostering an environment in which they could be generated.

Second, the sort of litigation that could result from such incidents is something which would consume resources, create enmity in a community, divide student bodies, and in general cause strife unnecessary in the community, strife which would be preventable by not providing an environment for mixing of the biological sexes in intimate and vulnerable circumstances.

As one with nine great granddaughters who either are or will be in schools in this state, help me protect them from unwanted sexual advances now, and in the future, by providing intelligent constraints on the mixing of the sexes in school and other public facilities where they would be vulnerable.

Thank you for your consideration of these remarks,

Joseph E. Bowling