

Hello. My name is Aubrianna Brown. I am a homeschooled high school junior from Bismarck, North Dakota. I stand in support of house bill 1522.

I know what you might be thinking: why would a homeschooler care about the public-school restroom policy? Regardless of where I go to school, I am an impassioned young adult who realizes that this policy will affect my friends, siblings, peers, and the future of our great state. I am speaking today on behalf of the children in the public school system. They are subjected to this destructive thought-process and ideology unceasingly. There is no relief. As a drama student at one of the local high schools, I have seen firsthand the confusion and depression of the students who are questioning their gender. They are drowning in a sea of confusion and doubt in a society that ties weights to their ankles through its affirmation. These wonderful students do not need their confusion confirmed. They have mistakenly attached their identity to their gender, but people are so much more than gender. We have the ability to affirm the person, while not conforming our views to their delusion. A more helpful response would be to guide them to the truth about gender and sexuality. "Transgenderism refers to a psychological state, how he allegedly views himself which is irrelevant to everyone except him. Locker rooms are not meant to house people based on psychological states."¹

Providing the opportunity for transgender people to use the bathroom corresponding to the gender they identify with will destroy the comfort of the masses. "For most well-adjusted people, their comfort level in the bathroom depends on who else is allowed to use it. Most girls feel comfortable using the girl's bathroom because there will only be girls inside it."² We not only need to consider the small minority of transgendered people, but also the little girls who did not asked to be subjected to seeing men in inappropriate ways and have their innocence taken away. We need to consider the young boys and men who easily can be accused of taking advantage of situations that they should never be subjected to in the first place, from inadvertently looking through cracks in doors up to easier access for violence and rape. Once you see something, you can never unsee it. These images can haunt people for years to come. The experiences can harm the innocence of all children concerned and have detrimental effects later in life, on their mental wellbeing, marriages, and overall relationships. "So much of the reasoning behind the LGBT movement is based on people's feelings and experiences. Their legitimate pain calls out for compassion and support, touching

¹ Matt Walsh Show, The Courage to be Sane, The Daily Wire+, June 29, 2021

² Matt Walsh Show, Chicago Public Schools Cordially Invite Boys into Girls Bathrooms, The Daily Wire+, December 3, 2021

our hearts, as it should. But when we elevate people's stories, feelings, preferences, and experiences above Scriptural truth, we have built a house of cards instead of a foundation for life."³ Feelings need to take its proper place, so here is my story wrapped in the blanket of God-given truth.

As I had mentioned before, I participate in the theater program at a local high school. During shows, there is normally not a lot of time to change in between scenes. The director has set aside separate changing rooms for guys and girls so we can make our quick changes with some privacy. The only problem is that one of the guys is allowed to be in the girls changing area while the other guys are not. This is extremely uncomfortable for me. I do not want a guy talking to me while I am changing. I do not want him to see me in my undergarments. I can try to go in nooks and carneys and try to wait to use the bathroom when it is available, but that is not always practical or doable. This should not be allowed. This boy is one of my good friends in this program. I do not believe that he would violate my safety in any way, but for me to still be subjected to this infringement of my modesty and the modesty of the other girls around me is unthinkable. I know that I am homeschooled, but this makes my case stronger. If it happens to me, it happens to them. If I am uncomfortable, they are uncomfortable. They just cannot be here to tell you about it themselves.

Thank you for your time. I stand open for questions.

³ Focus on the Family, A Biblical Perspective on Transgender Identity: A Primer for Parents and Strugglers