

Wolf, Sheldon

From: Lee, Judy E.
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 9:42 PM
To: -Grp-NDLA Senate Human Services; Wolf, Sheldon; NDLA, Intern 02 - Pouliot, Lindsey; Lahr, Pat
Subject: FW: HB 1522

FYI -

Senator Judy Lee
1822 Brentwood Court
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From: miahalvorson1 <miahalvorson1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 10:08 AM
To: Lee, Judy E. <jlee@ndlegis.gov>
Subject: RE: HB 1522

This is Mia Halvorson for the record. I just realized my name was not listed.

----- Original message -----

From: miahalvorson1 <miahalvorson1@gmail.com>
Date: 3/21/23 10:05 AM (GMT-06:00)
To: jlee@ndlegis.gov
Subject: HB 1522

Hello Senator Lee,

I wanted to thank you once again for listening to my testimony last week on HB 1473 and HB 1254.

I'm unfortunately not able to testify today on the bill, but I still wanted to send a message of concern I have for HB 1522.

One of my bigger concerns is a lack of funding within schools. I spoke with well over a dozen small schools, many of which only had male and female restrooms. Many of these schools stated they would have funding issues, including Lidgerwood Public School, indicating they have nowhere they can build a restroom (especially prior to the next school year). It would incur heavy financial impacts and it is just an unreachable task in the next five months.

Other schools stated they would turn a current handicapped restroom into a gender-neutral restroom, which I recognize as a possible solution. However, I want to discuss the possibility of bullying. It is enforcing that trans students use a restroom deemed as handicapped, which I believe could construe "trans people are handicapped." This subjects these children to bullying, a group that is already more likely to struggle with bullying and suicide.

I asked other questions about the schools, including if students could use these restrooms without concerns about running late to class. Many high schools have roughly four minutes to get out of class, head to their lockers to grab their belongings and get back to class. In some of these schools, including Bowbells Public School, their restroom is in the corner of the school. Yes, a smaller school, but it causes a higher likelihood of students to be late.

I have many other concerns, especially with trans students who appear cisgender passing. I know I discussed this last week about myself, being a trans person who has updated all legal documents and does not have their gender questioned.

I can go as far as to say I used the womens restroom multiple times when I testified last week. I would also like to state that other senators were inside the restroom common spaces, none of which batted an eye at my gender.

I will say, once again, I talked to many small schools. But this issue also pertains to larger schools. If we have gender neutral restrooms, that means other students have access to these spaces. Who is to say another student, say cisgender, is using a gender neutral restroom before the trans student arrives? They no longer have a place they can go in that moment.

You also cant label these spaces as 'trans' bathrooms, as this could out a student who is just starting an internal transition and doesn't feel comfortable using a restroom that aligns with their gender identity.

I would love to continue discussing my thoughts on topics relating to trans students, so I leave my email open to response. But, as stated earlier, there is a heavy financial impact on this legislation that is not thought about.

Thank you for taking the time to review this email.