

To: Senate Human Services Committee

From: Patricia A. Leno, District 30, Feminist for Girls and Women

Chairwoman Lee, and committee members, I am going to address some issues concerning the privacy and safety of women and girls in HCR3080.

First I want to quote Warren Wiersbe:

“Truth without love is brutality,

Love without truth is hypocrisy.”

In the early 80's I was a Program Director at our YMCA in Bismarck. The woman I was replacing had an experience in the Women's Health Center where a man had walked in and was watching her dress after showering. Thank God she wasn't showering! He wasn't caught. This is why the Y initially put a lock on that door. (Now the locks are on both doors (men's and women's) because it's a higher price membership.) But think of this: without this resolution and laws hindering a male entering a female domain, **that man** could have come in the shower naked with other women, and who knows what else could happen? Especially if the woman is alone!

Another time a woman came out of the female bathroom right behind the front desk, and cried out, “There's a man standing on the toilet in the stall next to me and is watching me while I am sitting on the toilet!” Now there is another door for that bathroom area and it is restricted.

There are some incidents I had experienced while at the YMCA and there are others, at UND as an athlete as well.

**These men with nefarious intent** would love to take advantage of a policy where males are allowed in female domains.

I recently read an article in the New American magazine (Issue February 27, 2023, starting on page 27), where a 17 year old girl experienced having a 66 year old man identifying as a male in her locker room in San Diego. She was terrified. (She could tell he was a man because he had man parts.) She was told by staff that she was safe and her feelings were dismissed. Later, when she spoke at the (Santee) City Council meeting, the video of her testimony went viral, and most comments were against her, and uplifted the transgender man, with some comments saying he was; (Quote): “shocked, thunderstruck, and amazed that his nude presence in a place designated for females would cause such a fuss!” (End of quote from New American, page 28, issue Feb. 27, 2023.) This 66 year old transgender man appeared not to respect or care for the experience of this 17 year old girl. Why does this transgender man need to be in a female locker room? Does it make himself feel better about himself? The girl was terrified and her feelings were not considered!

This is the start of something that is mentally stressful for females. It is an invasion of the right to privacy and is not fair.

It's like a vehicle at the top of a hill that is just starting to roll. At that point you can stop it. When it starts to roll, it becomes unstoppable because of momentum.

Think of these possibilities:

\*Would a father let his 8 year old daughter go into a locker room after swim lessons if he knew there could be boys or men showering in there?

\*What about a male teacher identifying as a female in the shower, restroom, locker room, with one of their female students?

I support this resolution HCR3010 to protect the rights of females to feel safe and have privacy in their domains.