

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to urge you to NOT PASS HB1144. Gender neutral bathrooms are the solution to gender issues not the problem. Gender neutral, single user bathrooms provide more privacy than any other type of public restroom. As a former public school teacher, I can assure you that I would have loved to have access to a single user, gender neutral bathroom.

My husband and I recently visited a restaurant that was built within the last two years and they featured single user restrooms with community sinks. Men, women and children all used whichever stall was open and then came out into the public area to wash their hands. There was complete privacy while using the toilet and no embarrassment when washing our hands.

Single user restrooms without labels take away the conflict of deciding and enforcing which restroom to use. They also make taking a class of students to the restroom more efficient as any student can use any open stall.

Some other reasons I support gender neutral bathrooms are below:

- Gender neutral bathrooms can be a safe space for people whose gender presentation doesn't conform to expectations.
- Gender neutral bathrooms can demonstrate respect for people's gender identity
- Gender neutral bathrooms can eliminate stress, anxiety, and mistreatment for transgender and gender non-conforming students.
- Transgender and gender non-conforming people often face discrimination, harassment, or violence in bathrooms.
- Gender neutral bathrooms also provide a safe space for all students who endure bullying.

Thank you for your attention and please Vote No on HB1144.