

Senate Education Committee

HB 1144

Testimony In Opposition

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Chairman Beard and Members of the Senate Education Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Anna Frissell and I am testifying on behalf of Youthworks in opposition to House Bill 1144.

House Bill 1144 requires the banning of modern, state of the art, student-centered restroom designs that schools have implemented to prevent bullying, increase the ability to provide supervision in restroom areas, and to ensure all students – regardless of gender identity – have access to safe, private secure restrooms while in school.

This bill jeopardizes student privacy, security and safety. This bill ignores the realities of school safety for all students. I prosecuted juvenile crimes that were referred to me because of incidents that happened in school restroom areas, I have seen how much these modern restrooms assist administrators to create safer, yet private, restrooms in schools: fewer incidents occur involving all students because the area is easily monitored. This bill is singling out transgender students, who face countless challenges in the school setting and who should be able to use a restroom without fear or anxiety. All students, regardless of gender identity, benefit from this restroom design.

This bill proposes making changes that are a waste of taxpayer dollars. Many schools have been designed utilizing the modern restroom design concept. The renovation costs would be high, with the money wasted on removing modern restrooms that are the best way to protect students and provide privacy.

Please vote NO on House Bill 1144 and prioritize student safety and fiscal responsibility.

Thank you.

Anna Frissell

Youthworks