

As a child, and as an adult, there were several situations where I faced harassment, physical assault, and attempted sexual assault in the men's restroom. Ironically I am a white cisgender male.

At the age of 5 a group of older boys attempted to force their way into the bathroom stall with me. Others climbed onto the walls and made comments about my genitals. In middle school bullies often tried to target me in the men's room. On the other end of the spectrum there are transgender people who just want the same human dignity that rest of us have. To be able to use the restroom without fear of harassment, intimidation or violence. The idea that transgender people are sexual predators is malicious argument used to stir up fear, anger and hate. In fact a recent study shows 70 percent of transgender people have experienced verbal harassment in a situation involving gender segregated bathrooms, while nearly ten percent have reported physical assaults.

We need to quit trying to rob transgender children of their dignity, safety and basic human rights and allow them to use the restroom without fear, intimidation, harassment and discrimination. This bill holds life threatening potential for our transgender children.