

Bill 1522 Testimony

Thank you Mr. Chairman, Madam Chair and members of the committee, my name is Tayva Upgren I am from District 8 I am 16 years old, and I am asking that you please render a DO PASS on HB 1522. First, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak to you on this subject. I would also like to start off by saying that just because I am in support of this bill does not mean that I dislike or hate transgender people. I empathize with their position and present my opinion with respect.

I would also like to point out that this bill has the ability to protect biological men and women as well as the transgender community by providing a safe bathroom location for both parties. Through the Sexual Abuse Awareness Training by the organization Ministry Safe,

We know that the places where sexual abuse is most prevalent are;

1. Anywhere clothes come off
2. A location less easily seen
3. Somewhere activity is less supervised.

And overall, it has been proven

The number one place for peer sexual abuse..... is the bathroom.

A fair example of this, is when a company such as Target implements any-sex bathroom/dressing room policies. Research has shown that it encourages criminals to take advantage of these policies to commit crimes.

- Family Research Council, 2017

However, my question is this, as a 16 year old high school student athlete I ask you, where do we draw the line?

If transgender individuals are allowed to go into restrooms then why not locker rooms?

.....Because there are bathrooms in the lockerooms. I play volleyball for a school and I often get dressed in the locker room. If there is a transgender individual in the locker room am I then forced to undress in front of a biological man? Does he see my female parts and do I see his male parts? A person could almost argue that this is indecent exposure.

I want you to take a minute to think about your daughters and granddaughters.....because there could be a future scenario where a 16 year old biological male would be in the bathroom with a 6 year old kindergarten girl. This likely will take place at sporting events, in rural communities, and other extra-curricular activities where bathrooms are frequently shared by all ages. And I ask you, is this safe? This is not just a bill about the rights of the transgender community,

biological males and females have rights too. And I am asking for a bathroom that respects my safety and privacy as a female.

This bill is extremely important because it sets a precedent. You are setting a precedent for me as a high school student and athlete. You are setting the precedence for your children and grandchildren. And ultimately, you are setting a precedent for future generations.

Once again my name is Tayva Upgren I thank you for your time, attention, and consideration and I am asking that you please render a DO PASS on HB 1522. Thank you I now stand open for any questions the committee might have.

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