

Linda Harvey Testimony HB 183 Bathroom Integrity in Schools
October 2023

Thank you for allowing me to present testimony today in favor of House Bill 183. I want to ask a simple question: why have bathrooms and showers in schools traditionally been separated according to male and female biological sex?

It's not just because of modesty, although that is a valid reason all by itself. Girls and women should be allowed to take care of personal needs without fear of being exposed. Boys too. But probably the principal reason has been because of safety.

And that protection is being removed by people who are committed to a very recent agenda that discounts biology. The fantasy of changeable gender has no basis in objective fact or research and is simply a well-funded effort by activists along with the pharmaceutical industry. The goal is to force unreality on all of America. This puts children at grave risk.

We have more than enough evidence that gender confusion signals emotional instability. And bathrooms provide a prime space for violence to act out.

In New Mexico, [a 12-year-old girl was raped](#) by a boy pretending to be a girl in 2021. The girl kept it a secret for many months because she was afraid of being labeled a bigot by her school, which has an open bathroom policy. So her dive into depression went many months without being diagnosed. It turns out, assaults had happened to several other girls who were also remaining silent.

In [Oklahoma](#), a 17-year-old boy posing as a female severely beat up a 15-year-old girl in the girl's restroom. The parents are suing the school district.

And in [Decatur, Georgia](#), a five-year-old girl was sexually assaulted in the restroom by a "gender fluid" boy, also five years old, who was permitted to enter that restroom under school policy. The school refused to change the policy and refused to take steps to ensure the future safety of that girl and other girls.

In [Loudoun County, Virginia](#), a girl was sexually assaulted by a gender confused boy in the bathroom, and the school tried to cover up the crime. The school did

not want this incident made public since their board was considering an open bathroom policy. In fact, they transferred the boy to another school where he sexually assaulted another girl.

But it's not just assault. Girls don't want males to expose themselves in restrooms and locker rooms.

And when state law doesn't come to their defense, nor local school districts, now students themselves are speaking out. In Riverside, California, an 18-year-old girl confronted her school board after they ignored an incident where a female-posing, biological boy had beat up two younger girls after a confrontation in the locker room. This boy had a history of exposing himself in the girls' locker room.

The concerned student said to the board, "Why are we affirming mental confusion of this boy and putting women's safety in jeopardy by allowing mentally confused men to use the women's spaces?...Why don't true females like myself, who are female down to our DNA, ever get a say in whether we are comfortable with this?" Her [remarks](#) were greeted with loud cheering from other students at the meeting.

In [Perkiomen Valley School district in Pennsylvania](#), 400 students recently walked out of school protesting the school's refusal to keep boys out of girls' bathrooms. In response, the board just reversed its policy, and is now requiring bathroom use based on biological sex.

Closer to home here in Ohio, we've had bathroom controversies in numerous school systems and we are learning about more every day. In [Dublin City Schools](#), teachers were told to let students use the restroom that fits a student's "gender identity." [Upper Arlington schools](#) built open bathrooms in schools without taking appropriate board action. [Parents in Tipp City](#) decided to sue the Bethel Local School district over its open restroom policy. A student was recently assaulted in a Mentor school. One of the students is reportedly transgender and bathroom issues were involved.

Lawmakers can take action to prevent such incidents. How can they do that? By doing what has been done for ages--- making biology the basis of private facility use and keeping girls safe. Thank you.