

I am writing today in response to the Protect All Students Act.

Schools were created as a "Safe Space", that was supposed to protect children exposed to discrimination, criticism, harassment, and other emotional or physical harm. It's hard to believe this is even a topic of debate and it goes back to a loud minority. Protection of the "rights" of a trans student should not endanger the rights of the majority. This decision is not based on discriminating against a transgender student, but about the safety of the other students.

The recent studies show that 2% of the student body identifies as "trans". According to the Office for Victims of Crime, their statistics document that "transgender people's experience of sexual violence indicates shockingly high levels of sexual abuse and assault. One in two transgender individuals are sexually abused or assaulted at some point in their lives. Some reports estimate that transgender survivors may experience rates of sexual assault up to 66 percent, often coupled with physical assaults or abuse. This indicates that the majority of transgender individuals are living with the aftermath of trauma and the fear of possible repeat victimization." With that being said, we aren't just dealing with a child who has decided their gender doesn't match their biology but in more than half of the cases, they are also victims of sexual abuse.

Sticking with those same stats and the argument FOR shared bathrooms. The opposition's largest arguments are about the "inclusion and safety" for the trans student. Is it the wisest decision to protect the 2% while putting the 98% at risk? If a separate, single bathroom is the solution that protects both parties.

Considering teachers are having issues with violence, vaping and other issues in the restroom, why would we add the chance of sexual violence from opposing sexes inside of the restroom? When children cannot feel safe using the restroom at a place of learning, we have reached a true tragedy.

Schools are supposed to be institutions for learning. While we are fighting over which restrooms and pronouns to use, other countries are educating their students in literacy, math, science, and history. When did the school system decide to become a social engineering institution instead of doing the job of educating and protecting the children? Our goal should be to create the best atmosphere for children to be able to learn.

This opens a Pandora Box effect into the topic at hand. The rise in anxiety in students is alarming and these are the topics that do not add to the resolution. Why don't we ask the children what they think about having to use the bathroom with someone of the opposite sex? Notice it is more often dealing with biological males wanting to be in a shared space with females. This opens the door to locker rooms and sports being shared. Based on biology, males are stronger than females. Women have something that can be taken from them and putting them in an atmosphere where they are using the restroom and changing is where they are most vulnerable. There is nothing comfortable or safe for prepubescent or post pubescent children being subjected to exposure and shared spaces with the opposite sex. There is nothing that feels "safe" about that.

Choosing a bathroom should not be based on "feeling" but on biology alone. The equipment one has should determine which door they use. Pronouns don't determine your sex, your biology does. Decisions of this magnitude shouldn't be made without including those that are affected the most.

In Loudoun County, at Stone Bridge High School, a biological boy assaulted a girl in the school bathroom. This went on to cause a student walkout in several schools to show solidarity with victims of such abuse. Do we need to get to this before we realize this is a bad idea?

Schools are considered a "Safe Space".

Protect our students and create an atmosphere conducive to learning – that's what school is designed to do.

I have two daughters, ages 12 and 14. Imagine girls trying to hold their bathroom needs so they don't have to share facilities. Imagine them saying they will wait or find a different place to use the restroom when they know a boy is inside. They said they would feel embarrassed and scared to be in a bathroom alone with a boy. We are grown adults who have more experience. We have a fully formed pre-frontal cortex, unlike the children who would be subjected to your decisions. Take yourself back to that age when just sitting next to a student of the opposite sex can stir emotions and awkwardness. And we are asking them to share bathrooms? This is absurd, it's irresponsible and it's unsafe.

We cannot cater to a minority when it puts the majority at risk.

Remember what schools were designed for – education. Let's focus on that goal and not add to the hinderances to their education.