

Penny Harmon
Edgecomb
LD 1704

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An Act to Prohibit a School Administrative Unit from Adopting a Policy That Allows a Student to Use a Restroom Designated for Use by the Opposite Sex

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee: I am writing regarding LD 1704 (HP 1139), An Act to Prohibit a School Administrative Unit from Adopting a Policy That Allows a Student to Use a Restroom Designated for Use by the Opposite Sex.

My grandson, who I have guardianship of, currently attends Boothbay Region Elementary School in Boothbay Harbor. He is in 7th grade and currently has a diagnosis of generalized anxiety disorder.

A few months ago, he informed me that there was a biological girl using the boy's bathroom, and he no longer felt comfortable using the urinals. He also stated that several of his friends felt the same way. After all, the biological girl still dresses like a girl while using the boy's bathroom.

I did my research and discovered that the transgender policy at Boothbay Region Elementary Schools allows this. In April, I spoke up at the school board meeting in defense of the male students that felt uncomfortable. I was told they would address the problem in their Friday newsletter.

It was addressed by telling the boys that if they felt uncomfortable they could use the bathroom in the nurse's office. They also stated this is the law.

This law regarding bathroom usage by someone of the opposite sex **MUST BE** changed. Whether it is a girl using the boy's bathroom or a boy using the girl's bathroom, the law is setting schools up for lawsuits. What if this girl states someone attacked her in the bathroom? What if a boy is wrongly accused of doing something he didn't? Obviously, there are no cameras in the bathroom!

Along with this, you are putting our most vulnerable students at risk. They are being told that their feelings **DO NOT MATTER**. How can we fix this?

The only way to fix this is to use bathrooms according to your biological sex. Let these boys and girls who feel uncomfortable about having their privacy invaded know that they matter, too! I can tell you right now that every boy and girl that wants privacy in the bathroom feels like they do not matter and the only ones who do matter are the ones that have gender dysphoria.

I encourage you to do the right thing for **ALL** our children and make the bathrooms in our public schools safe and comfortable for our students.

I hereby testify that LD 1704 HP 1139 ought to pass.