



Testimony of Linda Schauer, State Director, Concerned Women for America of South Dakota Before the South Dakota High School Activities Association

April 21, 2015

My name is Linda Schauer, and I'm the state director for Concerned Women for America of South Dakota. CWA is the largest public policy women's organization with over a half million members nationwide.

Representing a women's organization, the privacy and safety of young girls is paramount to us, and they are *both* put at risk by the current policy. Most parents do not want their daughter sharing a locker room or shower with a boy who feels like a girl. Many girls are modest even around other girls. Likewise, most parents would not want their son sharing private areas like showers and locker rooms with a girl who feels like a boy. Any of these scenarios would be a potentially frightening experience for young people. Furthermore, at a time when students should be focusing on their educational preparation and having fun with classmates, dealing with these issues is an unnecessary distraction.

These scenarios are difficult to handle for us as adults, imagine for children! In order to placate a few activists, schools are putting the privacy and safety of all children, but girls in particular, at risk. Not to mention opening themselves up for lawsuits when something goes terribly wrong, though we pray nothing regrettable happens. These issues are far from settled in our state and country. Why are we risking children's safety while we figure out the best way to handle them?

Most people do not want this. A recent CBS poll found that "Most Americans (59 percent) aren't comfortable with the idea of transgender students picking which bathroom or locker room to use, and think they should use the facilities of the gender they were born as, while [a mere] 26 percent think they should be allowed to use the bathrooms and locker rooms of their preferred gender."¹

In Minnesota where this issue has come up, the Minnesota Child Protection League tells us they found that 81% of all voters "disagree with the notion that a biological boy who self-identifies as

¹ *CBS News Poll: Transgender kids and school bathrooms*, available at <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/cbs-news-poll-transgender-kids-and-school-bathrooms/>

a girl should be able to share bathrooms, locker rooms and showers that biological girls are using. When asked if students, in general, should have a right to privacy in bathrooms, locker rooms and showers, with facilities that separate biological males and females, an overwhelming 90% of voters approve."²

There is no support for the current policy because there is no need for the current policy. Political correctness drives it.

We implore you, Board members: If this were merely about a child with identity issues, it would not be on most people's radar. The child would get the local assistance he needs, and the matter would be settled for the most part. But this is really about safety and privacy.

However, as a public policy women's organization with several decades of experience, we know firsthand and from a great deal of research that there is an agenda behind this that stems from a philosophy of utilitarianism. By that I mean that the impetus for this policy originated from adults seeking their own interests. These radical activists are "using" people, in this case children, to gain greater societal acceptance for their unacceptable behavior. Yes, we believe there is a movement afoot to "use" the rare young person with sexual confusion to create confusion among more young people, as well as influence our entire culture into a new pattern of thinking. We call this "defining deviancy down," to quote from the late Sen. Patrick Moynihan.

These radical activist adults want all of us---I repeat all of us---to not only accept their sexual behavior (not identity, *behavior*) but to affirm their sexual conduct as normative and mainstream. But we and our members refuse to become a part of this, and we will continue to speak out against the unjust principles and advocacy of these people who use others (including children) to implement an agenda that would not only create chaos for our students, but lead to the ruination of our South Dakota culture as we and our founders have known it since our prairies were first settled.

Children do not know about sexual behavior unless someone introduces them to it. Please do not enable these adults with an agenda to move that agenda ever higher and higher up the rungs of their ladder---at the expense of South Dakota's innocent children. Let's keep our young people innocent as long as they should be and not force them to be exposed in ways that could harm their tender hearts and minds.

The California Assembly passed a law to allow transgender students to use the facilities of their perceived sex. Assemblyman Tim Donnelly stated that AB1266 "will take the normal hormonal battles raging inside every teenager and pour gasoline onto those simmering coals."³

I appreciate the South Dakota High School Activities Association, but, with all due respect, this is bad policy.

² Press Release: Strong Majority of MN Voters Say No To Gender Blindness, available at <http://cplaction.com/transgender-policy/press-release-strong-majority-of-mn-voters-say-no-to-gender-blindness/>

³ Transgender Restroom Law Humiliates the 98%, available at <http://www.wnd.com/2013/08/transgender-restroom-law-humiliates-the-98/>

We urge you to rescind this policy and allow the local school districts to deal with this issue as they do so many others.

I leave you with these sobering statistics from Rape Response Services Online:

- Most female victims of completed rape, experienced their first rape before the age of 25 and almost half experienced their first completed rape before age 18.
- Persons under 18 years of age account for 67% of all sexual assault victimizations reported to law enforcement agencies.⁴

We need to have policies that protect ALL children.

Thank you.

⁴ Rape Statistics available at http://www.rrsonline.org/?page_id=944