

Press Conference Testimony on HF 3395
Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Barb Anderson

I am speaking in support of HF 3395. This bill is necessary to protect the safety and privacy of *all* students, as well as to safeguard their modesty and dignity.

The gender advocates who are a part of the Safe Schools coalition are using bullying prevention as a vehicle to undermine personal privacy by insisting that all public bathrooms and locker rooms be gender neutral. This extreme demand will put every school-age child at risk of sexual harassment and sexual assault by forcing schools to allow boys into girls' restrooms and locker rooms, and girls into boys' restrooms and locker rooms.

Bathrooms and locker rooms are intimate settings where the right to privacy and safety must not be threatened. If students do not feel safe at school, effective learning will not take place. The right to privacy—to not be viewed in a state of undress by the opposite sex—is a constitutional right that courts have long upheld.

HF 3395 is a logical, common sense bill that requires everyone to use the bathrooms and other private facilities that match their biological sex. This bill will protect students *and* adults who do not want to have mixed sex spaces for personal privacy *forced* on them. We must protect the bodily privacy rights of boys and girls, and men and women.

A child who is struggling with a psychological disorder like gender dysphoria must never be bullied and is entitled to compassion, dignity and respect. Special bathroom accommodations can be made for that child. However, they should not be granted special rights just because they are confused or in denial about their biological sex.

We must respect the privacy rights of the *majority* of children who do *not* have psychological disorders. It is the wish of this majority to have bathrooms and locker rooms separated by biological sex. That is such a basic, common sense request! Please honor the wisdom of the long-standing policies and traditions that have preserved personal privacy and have kept our girls and women safe.

Thank you.

Barb Anderson, a former high school teacher, is a cultural research analyst. She has 25 years of experience writing and speaking on issues confronting children in the public schools today.