

PRIVACY FOR ALL



Paid for by
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Yesterday in Sacramento, Privacy For All submitted initiative language for the Personal Privacy Protection Act and we are announcing this with the press release that appears below.

Also reprinted below is a note that was directed from a student to a legislator in Nevada where a similar measure is pending. This student forcefully but politely notes why laws like these protecting privacy and safety are necessary. We could not state the need for these new laws any better.

Bathroom Privacy Initiative

Privacy advocates have taken the first step to prohibiting unwanted intrusions in California bathrooms, showers and locker rooms. Privacy For All has submitted language to California elections officials to place the Personal Privacy Protection Act on the 2016 ballot.

If approved by California voters, the Personal Privacy Protection Act requires that individuals "use facilities in accordance with their biological sex in all government buildings". The proposed initiative does not require private businesses to maintain sex separated facilities, but protects these businesses from legal action if they do require employees and patrons to "use facilities in accordance with their biological sex".

"We have great compassion for any person that is uncomfortable in traditional, sex separated facilities.

But we also want to protect the privacy that most of us expect when we are in public bathrooms, showers and dressing areas" said Gina Gleason, a proponent of the initiative.

California's legislature took an unprecedented step in 2013 by passing AB 1266 that allowed students in California public schools to choose the bathroom, shower and locker room that corresponds to the gender they identify with even if that is different from their biological sex. But that law was put on hold as opponents gathered almost 620,000 voter signatures for a referendum to allow voters to vote on the controversial new law. The matter is currently in court following voter officials rejecting more than one in five signatures to keep the measure off of the November 2014 ballot.

"California voters may have two chances to vote against co-ed bathrooms in 2016" said Karen England, a Privacy For All spokesperson. "We hope to wrap up the court battle over the AB 1266 referendum and place that on the ballot, but we also expect to have this new initiative before the voters at the same time."

If the voters vote to overturn AB 1266, the new initiative would still be needed to assure privacy in California bathrooms. AB 1266 applied only to facilities at public schools, where the new initiative applies to all government buildings including schools.

The Personal Privacy Protection Act also protects private businesses that may feel pressured to separate their bathrooms by gender identity as opposed to gender reality in order to avoid threatened lawsuits.

Proponents of the new initiative need to gather 365,880 signatures of California voters to place the measure before voters.

Letter from a Nevada student supporting Student's Privacy

Dear Assemblyman:

I am a student at in Las Vegas I would like to thank you for all that you do for our wonderful state!

I am emailing you today even though we have already spoken because I need you to know how important ab375 is to me, and many other students. It's a very important topic for me, and I have recently been discussing it with many students at my school. While of course I have met students who would like to have co-ed restrooms and locker rooms, it seems that the majority of the students I have spoken to about the issue are completely mortified by the idea of co-ed facilities, and so am I.

Many people are harassing me, calling me names, and being extremely disrespectful to my beliefs on this subject, but that will not stop me from fighting for my privacy and my safety. I do not want to attend a high school where I am afraid of using the restroom. People say that because of this I must be "afraid" of transgender students. That is not the case. I am afraid that I will walk into a restroom full of a group of older boys and they will abuse, bully, or sexually harass me. You are a father, and I believe that you will understand the scenario I am about to present. Imagine your daughter being forced to change into her swim uniform, or her volleyball uniform, or her softball uniform in front of a group of extremely immature boys. How would you feel? I know my dad, and grandfathers are all outraged that they are even considering that, but I am just scared.

When we discussed this it seemed like you agreed with the policy, but worried about the politics. I would like to remind you that it is never the wrong time to do the right thing. Please keep that in mind. Please do not let me be afraid to go to the restroom at school. Please protect ALL students right to privacy, and safety. PLEASE say yes to AB375.

Thank you.