



## Don't All Students Deserve Privacy?

### Privacy For All Students Coalition Launches Petition To Let Voters Decide Fate of School Bathroom and Shower Legislation

Great news – the referendum campaign to repeal AB 1266 – the poorly-conceived and terribly flawed co-ed bathroom legislation – is circulating petitions to stop this terrible law in its tracks. AB 1266 was passed by the California Legislature and signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown and opens school showers, bathrooms and locker rooms to members of the opposite sex.

How bad is AB 1266, the co-ed bathroom bill? It's awful. This legislation invades the privacy of our children while they are in the most vulnerable areas of a school – showers, rest rooms and locker rooms. The bill allows any student to use the facilities reserved for the opposite sex simply by asserting a vague “gender identity.” The bill contains no definitions, rules, standards or guidelines. It simply creates a right for students of the opposite sex to use the most sensitive private areas at school.

AB 1266 is so poorly drafted that the student claiming a gender identity opposite his or her actual gender needs no evidence that he or she actually identifies with the opposite gender. There is no requirement that the person have ever presented himself or herself at school or home as the opposite gender. And there is no requirement that the student's parents be involved in the decision. The legislation is wide open for abuse.

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AB 1266 also fails to provide a role for parents in determining a course of action for a student. Some students may be suffering from gender confusion, wherein a teen is genuinely confused about the strong feelings they have identifying with the gender opposite of how they were born. Involving the child's parents in fashioning a course of conduct for that student could be critical to his or her ultimate wellbeing, yet AB 1266 contains no provisions for parental involvement.

We are all God's children, entitled to love and human dignity. Certainly, it is wrong whenever a child suffers discrimination and bullying for any reason. We have laws on the books to guard against that. But it's also wrong to use our laws to frustrate and deny great natural and moral truths. One such truth is that men and women offer unique and complementary contributions to human flourishing. Society is better served when those contributions are encouraged, not when the uniqueness of being male and being female are stripped from societal norms and we're guided into a genderless future. This is especially true when, as with AB 1266, children are used as weapons in a culture war.

Please help us by collecting as many signatures as you possibly can. We only have until early November to collect approximately 505,000 voter signatures needed to suspend AB 1266 and give voters the right to decide if we want to overturn this outrageous law. Please also share the petition with all your friends, family and colleagues who live in California and ask them to help as well. Please act today!

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