

## Man In Women's Restroom Traumatizes Maryland Woman

**Her Testimony to Maryland Legislators on March 4, 2009:** The Gender Identity bill enforces the ideology of a special interest group "Equality Maryland" over the needs and concern of the general public. Proponents of this bill state that the rights of even the smallest minority should be protected. **My question is why then doesn't this bill protect my rights to personal safety and privacy.**

I ask you to protect the interest of the true minority. **Women who have been raped or who are victims of personal trauma do not need to be put at risk by the legislators they trust.**

I am the victim of an assault that occurred during a voyeurism incident in a lonely bathroom in the Tysons Corner mall shopping center. **To this day I will never forget the incident and it has modified my behavior daily for activities I once took for granted.**

It was early in the morning on a Sunday and the mall was relatively deserted. I was going to be car shopping that day and I decided to use the bathroom before I left the mall. I had parked outside of Hechts so I was going to use that ladies room. I won't go into all of the chaos that occurred, but the long-lasting effect is that, to this day, the violation I experienced makes me extremely uncomfortable and wary of any public restrooms, with the exception of single stall restrooms with locks. This individual was able to access my restroom without the Gender Identity bill. **Why would you make it easier for men to come into the ladies room by giving privileges to crossdressers— Keep the ladies room for ladies.** Women that have the same physical anatomy.

Just last week I had a business meeting and I asked to use the women's restroom. When they informed me it was unlocked and in the lobby of the building my fears were renewed and I asked the gentleman to come to the ladies restroom door if I was not back in 5 minutes.

Restroom, lockers and showers were designed for very private and personal business. 99% of rapes are committed by men. **Separation on the basis of traditional sex is to protect women who are vulnerable to rape, voyeurism and assault. It is hard to believe that a civil society would not protect its most vulnerable citizens.**

The Gender Identity bill would break biological barriers that separate male and female facilities. **No longer would women and girls be able to feel completely safe in the most private and personal bathroom and locker facilities** of schools, public pools, malls, stores, health clubs, restaurants and other such public places throughout the county.

I never believed that legislators voted for by myself and other traumatized "minority women" would not look out for our interests.

The very thought that any cross dressing male, pedophile, rapist or voyeur would be protected by the Gender Identity bill and could invade my "safe haven" is terrifying to me.

I am here to represent my sisters, nieces, female co-workers, aunts, mother, friends, co-workers and relatives with same and ask you to vote NO on HB474 and SB566.

**Call your legislators today at 301-970-5000**

**House Committee: 301-858-3770 Senate Committee: 301-858-3623**

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