



Maryland Citizens for a Responsible Government

AUTHORITY: MCRG-REPEAL BILL 23-070; RUTH JACOBS TREASURER

## **Men in Women's Bathrooms: Washington, D.C., Area "Gender Identity" Nightmare Becomes Pivotal Opportunity**

If you are a concerned parent or grandparent, a four-star alarm should sound in your mind when gender identity bills are initiated anywhere in America and especially in the seat of government. There has been a concerted effort by the homosexual and transgender lobby throughout America to get these dangerous bills passed before citizens become aware of the dangers. **The bills have been disguised as "civil rights bills," but instead threaten freedom of speech, religion, and privacy for all Americans.** Seven states in 2006 and 13 states in 2008 had such legislation.

The nightmare began in Montgomery County (MD), with the passing of Gender Identity Bill 23-07 in 2007 over protests of concerned parents, churches and citizens.

One of the most startling parts of these new bills is the failure to protect women's and children's rights to privacy in bathrooms, lockers, and showers. In Montgomery County, the new legislation could allow hefty fines, estimated by one law firm to be as high as \$500,000 for failing to accept a man in a blue dress as a female or for complaining about indecent exposure when a cross-dressing male undresses right next to a young girl in the female locker room. If you believe in biology, or that "God created man in his own image ... male and female created he them," (Genesis 1:27) under these new rules your beliefs can be labeled as 'harassment' and 'bigotry'.

These bills fail to recognize that gender identity disorder is a mental illness as defined by the American Psychiatric Association. **No other legislation has proclaimed such civil rights for a mental illness or indeed for such a moving target as "gender identity".** A definition is required simply to know who is "protected." Alarming, definitions in this bill are extremely broad. The so-called umbrella definition of gender identity is based on "*gender-related appearance, expression, image, identity, or behavior*" and allows change from day to day or indeed from moment to moment (see for yourself at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/council/pdf/bill/2007/23-07.pdf>). In order to give special rights to a few your rights have been discarded.

**The law contains no exemptions for personal conscience, religion, or schools, again fines as high as \$500,000 and legal costs as high as \$250,000 could apply to anyone failing to recognize someone's "perceived gender" or "gender identity".** The same concerns would apply to churches and schools refusing to hire a cross-dressing teacher or transvestite choir leader.

### **Opposition and Adversity Become Opportunity**

It is clear that as parents find out about the ramifications of these dangerous bills the opposition to the bills has been increasing. Citizens, even in a state as liberal as Massachusetts, were able to successfully oppose "Transgender Rights Bill and Hate Crimes Bill" H1722, thus preventing them from becoming the 14<sup>th</sup> state with gender identity legislation.

Montgomery County is an influential, liberal, Washington D.C. suburb. The bill was promoted in the county via a homosexual advocacy group, Equality Maryland, and sponsored by a councilwoman who has obtained over 60% of her campaign funds from out of state. **If the gender identity bill that was passed in this county can be stopped it would be an important blow to the momentum of the gay and transgender activist agenda.**

Concerned parents and citizens began the effort to stop the bill the same day the bill was passed. **A new organization, Maryland Citizens for Responsible Government (MCRG), was formed to coordinate the efforts. Its website is [www.notmyshower.net](http://www.notmyshower.net).** Churches became involved. The successful referendum petition drive gathered more than 25,000 signatures in 90 days before February 20, 2008.

The next step in this important bid to reverse the tide is the public relations campaign needed to inform voters about the bill before the November 4<sup>th</sup> elections. Because of the successful referendum, the bill will be on the ballot at that time for a yes or no vote. The difficulties include the fact that there are 500,000 voters in Montgomery County to reach before the elections. Many are simply unaware of the bill or its ramifications.

Homosexual advocacy groups recognize the importance of this campaign. They have stated:

*"The fate of both local and national transgender anti-discrimination measures could hinge on what happens in this suburban Washington, D.C. enclave of one million people over the coming days and weeks... The issue is being followed closely by ...local media that attract the attention of members of Congress.....You can imagine how problematic a campaign like this could be."*

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund is announcing a \$20,000 challenge grant and Equality Maryland alone has reportedly a \$1 million budget.

## Money Talks

The MCRG petition referendum drive ( [www.notmyshower.net](http://www.notmyshower.net) ) **reinforced how money at the right time can make all the difference.** One miracle occurred with a large donation that paid for both radio ads and a robo call (automated telephone message) 5 days before the deadline. With this help, almost a third of the signatures submitted were collected in the last few days of the campaign.

## Out of small things great things can come to pass

Once Montgomery County citizens knew about the dangers of the bill, the vast majority were anxious to sign the petition. The petition drive showed that this was not an issue of liberals vs. conservatives, or even Democrats vs. Republicans. The signers of this petition crossed all boundaries.

If you are discouraged about what is happening in the world **and want to know how to make a difference**, think about this one influential Washington, D.C. suburb. In the seat of government, the Montgomery County effort to repeal Gender Identity Bill 23-07 has the power to raise awareness and to change the momentum of this culture war. The public relations campaign between now and Election Day is a tremendous opportunity to inform citizens, senators, representatives, and the rest of America about the dangers of these bills.

**All who are interested in helping in small or large ways are needed to protect freedom of speech, religion, women, children, and the family.** To donate, find out more, or to sign up for email blasts go to the MCRG website [www.notmyshower.net](http://www.notmyshower.net) .

**Checks should be made out to MCRG-Repeal Bill 2307 and mailed to  
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