

I am writing to ask your help in assisting in overturning a terrible piece of legislation recently passed by Montgomery County's Council and signed by our County Executive into law. This bill, 23-07, is a "wolf in sheep's clothing", as it parades as anti-discrimination legislation, but is really just one more attempt to legislate an erosion of values and trample the rights of good citizens while pandering to the imprudent desires and "needs" of a very limited few.

Ostensibly this legislation is to extend current non-discrimination legislation to include a new protected class called transgenders (i.e. persons of one biological sex who go through life as if they were of the opposite sex). Although its supporters say that the legislation is to ensure that these conflicted people are not unduly discriminated against, the practical implications are extreme. In fact, religious and private schools and institutions would very limited in hiring practices and could be sued under this legislation for discrimination in hiring if they elected to not hire a transgender person.

More importantly, the original bill allowed for transgenders to use public facilities (i.e. showers, rest rooms, locker rooms, changing rooms, etc.) based on their gender identity (e.g. a biological male that feels like a woman could go to the ladies' public restroom at a restaurant or the women's shower at a pool, for example). The press and advocates for this legislation would have you believe that this is not allowed under this legislation; because under pressure to get the bill passed they removed the express wording allowing this. Don't be fooled by their chicanery! There is no express exception for this and the final judge of whether this is allowed under the legislation is the Human Rights Commission which said on the record in an October meeting with the Council on this legislation that:

"HRC staff indicated [to Council staff] that if Bill 23-07 were silent on the issue of public facilities, they would interpret the bill as allowing a person to use facilities based on that person's gender identity."

This very clearly means that it would be allowed, especially in light of the bill's sponsors who had language in the original bill specifically allowing such access by persons of the opposite sex. (So you know, Councilperson Trachtenberg, the primary sponsor, has a transgender chief of staff who is behind this). Can you imagine this is allowed today in Montgomery County? Moreover, it presents opportunities for others with even more sinister objectives to access such facilities to leer or do something worse. What have we come to that this is allowable? The privacy, security and safety of all women in Montgomery County is at risk in order to move this radical liberal agenda forward.

I personally believe that we are at a critical juncture in our society and that people need to stand up and say "enough". We'll be called intolerant, to be sure, but regardless, we must resist this legislation and act to do so now. That is why I need your help. A group called Citizens for a Responsible Government, which is a spin-off from the Citizens for a Responsible Curriculum (which fought the curriculum changes for sex education in our schools which promote many things at odds with our faith and decency) has mounted a campaign to overturn this bad legislation via a referendum which would call the issue to a vote by the citizens of Montgomery County. We need 25,000 signatures of registered Montgomery County voters who still reside in the county in order to get this up for a vote. Please visit www.notmyshower.net to download a petition and sign today.