

SB 98: OPPOSE

Three “bathroom” bills have already been filed this legislative session. These bills are invasive, provoke fear, and promote further discrimination. In particular, Sen. Emery’s Senate Bill 98 targets transgender students in K-12 public schools.

We urge the Missouri Legislature to oppose harmful, anti-LGBT bills like SB 98 and instead focus on protecting LGBT Missourians through bills like the Missouri Nondiscrimination Act (MONA).



MYTH

These “bathroom” bills protect all students, including those who are transgender.

#1

FACT

Every student should have a fair chance to succeed in school. But many transgender students face hostility, discrimination, and bullying. SB98 would make that even worse. Transgender students are part of our school communities, and like other students, they're there to learn and prepare for their future. They need to be able to use the restroom that matches the gender they live every day without being singled out for harassment.

MYTH

My child won't be safe if the school allows children to use whichever bathroom they want.

#2

FACT

All of us, including transgender students, care about safety and privacy in restrooms and locker rooms. Which is why it's important to know that it is already illegal for anyone to enter these facilities to harm or harass someone or invade someone's privacy.

MYTH

Couldn't male students just pretend to be transgender in order to invade spaces for female students?

#3

FACT

The experience of schools across the country has shown that student abuse of these policies simply does not happen. Students cannot pretend to be transgender in order to engage in misconduct. And if someone abuses any school policy to harm another student or invade their privacy, schools can and will stop such behavior as part of their legal obligation to provide a safe learning environment for all students.

EVERYONE DESERVES TO BE TREATED WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT.

School administrators have long been able to accommodate the needs of their students without banning transgender students from common spaces. School districts across the country have successfully worked to ensure that transgender students have access to facilities that match their gender identity while still protecting the privacy of all students. Instead of harmful, overreaching bans like SB98, schools should have the ability to enact policies that ensure that all students, including transgender students, are able to learn and thrive as equal members of the school community.