

“Open-Bathroom Bill” Q & A

☆ Why has Bill 244 been dubbed the “open bathroom bill”?

Bill 244 would require businesses to allow customers to use either bathroom they wish based on their personal “gender identity”.

In this context, *bathroom* or *restroom* does not mean a single-stall restroom that only accommodates one individual. Rather, we are referring to multi-stall restrooms sometimes called public restrooms that are often at grocery stores, restaurants, and department stores.

☆ What’s wrong with those who look like women using the women’s restroom?

Some think this law simply allows those who look like men to use the men’s restroom, and those who look like women to use the women’s restroom. This is, however, an idea based on stereotypes rather than Bill 244. The term *gender identity* covers a broad spectrum of expressions; in reality, there’s no objective way to tell what a person’s gender identity is by looking at them. Under this law, even a bearded, biological man (who has never had any kind of “sex-change” surgery/hormones) could still have legal protection to use the women’s restroom if he says it is part of his gender identity.

☆ What is the problem with the bill?

Consider this fact. In the revised *Criminal Victimization*, 2016 report released October 2018, the U.S. Department of Justice reported that in two years alone there were over 700,000 rapes or sexual assaults committed in America. An unintended consequence of Bill 244 is that it is announcing to sexual predators that they will now have an easier time entering the restroom opposite their biological sex to commit such tragedies. Any business who tries to stop ANY man from going into the women’s restroom (or locker room, shower room, etc.) could face a fine or lawsuit under this law.

☆ Do we believe that transgenders are sexual predators?

We are not suggesting that those who identify as transgender are sexual predators, because as we all know sexual crimes are committed in every demographic. Our contention, however, is that this type of law provides a layer of protection to hundreds of thousands of sexual predators who have and will use this kind of law to more easily enter restrooms to forever scar the lives of innocent victims.

Everyone should expect two things when using a private and intimate facility like a restroom: privacy and safety. Every day, men and women have their lives totally altered by sexual criminals. Businesses should not have to fear being called a criminal for seeking to protect their clientele from criminals.

Privacy and safety, two reasons Bill 244 should not be made law in our city.