

I am here to support the bill that requires gender neutral bathrooms in state building because I am passionate about gender equality. If we are all being honest with each other, we can acknowledge that the luxuries the majority of people enjoy are not luxuries that everyone enjoys. It is no secret that transgender and non binary people face more violence and aggression than cisgender people do. Using the restroom is one of those luxuries. Although I am not of a marginalized gender identity group, I understand the importance of feeling safe which not all people feel while using gendered bathrooms. Gen and I first proposed gender neutral restrooms to our schools headmaster at the end of last year. To our surprise, he made it happen. Now, we have a least one gender neutral restroom in each of the five buildings at our school. We have numerous visitors at our school every day and for them to see a sign that acknowledges all gender identities rather than just the two binary genders, it sets the mood for the community of our school. It shows we are acknowledging the oppression differently identified people face. It shows we are aware of issues within the lgbtq community. On top of all of this, if nothing else, gender neutral bathrooms spark conversation. Recently, gen and I have educated a majority of current freshman in high school about gender and sex and the difference between the two. And these restrooms are just the tip of the ice berg. By instating these restrooms in our state houses, much like at our high school, it will set the mood for the state. It is the beginning of a conversation that we will have over and over again and will keep having until every person feels safe.