



**TO:** The House Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs  
**FROM:** Jay Diaz, Staff Attorney, ACLU-VT  
**DATE:** April 11, 2017  
**SUBJECT:** Support H. 333 – An act relating to identification of gender-free restrooms in public buildings and places of public accommodation

### **H. 333 ENHANCES EQUALITY**

H. 333 requires public buildings and places of public accommodation to:

- 1) Identify any single-use restroom as gender-free (while not defined, “gender-free” is generally defined as available to any person regardless of their gender identity).
- 2) Designate single-use restrooms for use by one occupant, or family, or assisted use.

### **H. 333 IMPROVES SAFETY**

Vermont anti-discrimination law bans discrimination based on gender identity. Trans and gender nonconforming individuals have suffered harassment, “gender policing,” and physical harm for using the restroom that matches their gender identity, causing significant fear in the community. The evidenced hostile environment is discriminatory and provides unequal protection to trans individuals. No one should be afraid to use the restroom that matches their gender identity in Vermont.

### **HOW?**

H. 333 provides a common sense and simple solution – removing gendered restroom signs at single use restrooms, thereby removing the need for trans and gender nonconforming individuals to identify themselves in public whenever entering a single-use restroom.

### **EVERYBODY WINS**

- Healthier, safer, and more user friendly restrooms for all.
- No more waiting for your identified gender restroom to be free while the other is empty.
- No more discomfort for parents with differently gendered children.
- People with disabilities have greater access to single-use restrooms no matter.
- Implicitly encourages single-use restrooms so all have greater access and privacy.
- Vermont businesses will be more welcoming, offsetting costs for updating signs.
- Vermont at its best – leading the way toward greater equality; bucking the terrifying national trend of anti-trans legislation.

Please contact [jdiaz@acluvt.org](mailto:jdiaz@acluvt.org) with questions or comments.