



Anoka Hennepin School Board
March 20, 2017

Statement from Child Protection League – Michele Lentz, President

I am speaking in strong opposition to Anoka Hennepin School District adopting a policy that would allow students to use the bathrooms, locker rooms, showers and overnight accommodations according to “gender identity” for the following reasons:

1. **Nothing requires you to adopt this policy** –not the Minnesota State High School League, not the federal Title IX education law, not the federal Department of Justice or Education, not the Minnesota Safe and Supportive Schools Act, and not the Minnesota Human Rights Act.
2. **The public doesn’t support this.** [A 2015 poll by Public Opinion Strategies](#) revealed that 90% of Minnesota voters across every geographic and demographic group oppose this kind of gender inclusive policy.
3. **The Coon Rapids school has made considerable changes and investments** to respectfully and reasonably accommodate the special needs of the student. The Americans with Disabilities Act sets a standard of reasonable accommodation. Speaking personally, as the mother of a disabled child, we don’t demand every bathroom be handicap accessible, that every entrance have a wheel chair ramp, nor that every parking spot close to the door be reserved for our wheel chair vans. People support reasonable accommodations because they are common sense solutions.
4. Most importantly, **the policy change you are considering is wrong;** first, because it would result in a dangerous invasion of students’ personal privacy. Personal privacy is a well-established legal right. The school district will face lawsuits.

Second, because it would require students to adopt a “gender fluid” interpretation of sex – to accept the idea that people actually *are* whatever they think themselves to be. Forcing children to affirm what is not true is the greatest violation.

CPL exists to protect children from exploitation, indoctrination and violence. We do this by informing and organizing the people, through print, radio, social media and through litigation support of parents who seek legal action. We stand ready to take all necessary means to support a legal challenge to an Anoka Hennepin gender-inclusion policy.