

My name is Emily Zinos and I am a mother of 6 children who attend MN schools. I am also a member of a national coalition of women called Hands Across the Aisle, which unites conservative Christians, lesbians, and feminists in our support for biological sex-based rights.

I'd like to begin with a couple of definitions: "Sex" is the reality of being male or female as determined by unchangeable biology, anatomy and chromosomes. Gender identity is a person's inner sense of being male, or female, or both, or neither. Sex is a verifiable fact. Gender is an idea.

Sex-based protections in law are a big part of why women comprise such a large number of today's college graduates, why girls have their own high school and college sports teams and why women have equal employment opportunities.

But it's not just women's and girls' rights that are at stake when sex is redefined as gender identity; students and parents also have much to lose. Last year, as a mother to public school students, I watched as a gender inclusion policy at our school quickly eroded privacy protections, free speech rights, and science itself.

The gender inclusion policy at our school:

- Allowed students to use the showers, locker rooms, bathrooms and overnight accommodations of the opposite sex,
- It proclaimed that sex was arbitrarily assigned at birth and that it can be changed at will,
- Shut down free speech, forcing students to use preferred pronouns or be punished.

Privacy is important to the parents who entrust their children to Minnesota public schools every day. At our school, over 100 parents joined forces to demand that the privacy, safety and dignity of their children was respected. When the school didn't listen and a gender inclusion policy was passed,

over 90 students were pulled out of the school and applications for enrollment dropped for the first time in the school's history.

We all know that biological sex matters when we're in a communal locker room. As a member of the Hands Across the Aisle coalition, I work with lesbians, feminists and progressives to advocate for intimate spaces like showers, locker rooms and bathrooms to be designated by biological sex. I'd like to commend the Anoka-Hennepin School Board for respecting student privacy and encourage you to continue doing so. This is not a partisan issue, this is commonsense.

Thank you.