

A foundation for understanding...

DEBUNKING BATHROOM MYTHS

“Experts have repeatedly debunked the myth that transgender non-discrimination laws give sexual predators access to women’s restrooms”

Yet fake news stories persist, creating fear about transgender-inclusive bathrooms¹.

Here are some common unfounded allegations, along with corresponding facts.

Myth: Inclusive HRO protection will allow male sexual predators to dress as women and lurk in women’s and girls’ bathrooms.

Reality: HRO legislation does not allow or encourage sexual predation or pedophilia. Both are criminal offenses, whether local inclusive HRO protection is in place or not. And officials in cities and states that have inclusive HRO protection, from Massachusetts to Hawaii, have reported no increase in those incidents.

Myth: Providing HRO protection for transgender individuals will force small businesses to provide additional bathrooms just for transgender people.

Reality: There has been no evidence in any of the more than 250 communities with HRO protections of inappropriate actions arising from transgender people using the restroom corresponding to their gender identify. In addition, unisex bathrooms have been used without incident, for generations — including those in airplanes and portable facilities at outdoor events.

Obsessing about bathrooms serves as an attention-grabbing distraction for people who oppose inclusive HRO protection for other reasons. An inclusive HRO provides protections against victimization, not permission to victimize.



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1. Maza, Carlos. "Debunking the Big Myth About Transgender-Inclusive Bathrooms" (March, 2014); Equality Matters

What experts from states with laws on the books say:



“Beyond specious” to say laws will lead to sexual assault.

Toni Troop, spokeswoman for Jane Doe Inc.



No problems since passage of 2011 law.

Las Vegas Police Department



“Has not resulted in increase[d] sexual assault”

William Hoshijjo, executive director of Hawaii Civil Rights Commission



“Not aware” of any problems from a 2001 law.

Karen Richards, Vermont Human Rights Commission



“No factual basis” for sexual assault fears.

Amy Snierson, executive director of Maine Human Rights Commission



Sexual assaults stemming from law “not even remotely” a problem.

John Elder, Minneapolis police spokesman



Opponents of protections are trying to “create fear.”

Alexa Priddy, director at Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault



“Zero allegations” of bathroom sexual assault.

Charlie Burr, spokesman for Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries



No increase in sex crimes due to 2001 law.

Michael D. Evora, executive director of Rhode Island Commission for Human Rights



“Unaware of any sexual assault as the result of the CT gender identity or expression law.”

Jim O'Neill, spokesman for the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights in Opportunities