

To the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare:

My name is Valerie Daugherty and I give this testimony today, Monday, February 13 in opposition of SB 180.

To begin: This bill wants to define the terms “ male ” and “ female ” based on how an individual’s genitals determine their role in reproduction in order to: construct statutes addressing social issues using this language?

Lazy.

The damning bit of the whole thing is in using the myriad discriminations that women have faced in a misguided attempt to justify its existence. Let’s examine line 16, which reads: “ WHEREAS, Female individuals have historically suffered from discrimination in education, athletics and employment. ”

If we presume that line is using the bill’s own definition of female – being one who possesses ovaries – then that statement is woefully incomplete. *Women*, irrespective of their genital configuration, or ability to reproduce, have historically and do presently suffer such discrimination as a result of society’s relegation of the feminine. This problem has nothing to do with any “ biological sex, ” nor does any issue this bill brings up to support itself.

By demanding to use what the bill calls “ biological sex “ to address social disparities in gender is to create a dystopia where what we’re really doing is asking each other “ what’s in your pants? “ at every occasion, without relevance, when we could be doing something to address the patriarchal insistence that inclusion of transgender women has, to use the bill’s own language, “ led to the endangerment of single-sex spaces and resources. “ – An insistence that drives discrimination and violence further. Shame on you for putting such a disgusting and unsupported premise in your legislation, but thanks for giving up the jig.

While this bill is solving no problems, it surely is creating new ones and maintaining old ones.

By ignoring the actual causes of discrimination and violence against each other and insisting that the definition you have attached to the penis between my legs is the only description of who I am that counts, you **increase** my likelihood to be a victim of hate crime and sexual violence - My penis isn’t a magical shield against either. You do nothing to address the reality of my lived experience and factor that in to providing the resources I really need. You will force the state and its agents to interact with me and others in a way that will actively harm us, and you encourage the public to do the same, largely.

You know who needs to know about my penis – the one person for whom that piece of information relevantly factors into their decision-making process? My doctor. End of list. “ Biological sex “ is a completely useless datum in the context of solving any problem this bill purports to. There is literally not one actual problem facing us that is solved by revealing our genitals – all of these problems arise from biases we hold based on expressions of gender.

Finally, Dr. William E Kobler of the American Medical Association has made statement that “A narrow limit on the definition of sex would have public health consequences for the transgender population and individuals born with differences in sexual differentiation, also known as intersex traits.” I suggest you give that statement its due consideration. If you pass this bill, transgender and intersex people across the spectrum will come to harm and *still* women will be left without an *actual* addressing of our issues.

Please kill this willfully harmful piece of legislation.

Thank you.