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## TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC" BEHOLD! THE ERA OF "POTTY POLITICS" IS UPON US! (And I never saw it coming!)



By Stephen L. Bakke  April 16, 2016

*Here's what provoked me:*

*The issue of "free choice of restrooms" snuck up on me but I'm trying hard to get up to speed!*

*Here's my response:*

**Behold! The Era of "Potty Politics" is Upon Us! (And I never saw it coming!)**

The April 12 editorial ("Anti-discrimination laws in Minnesota: Are we progressing or regressing?") drove home something I didn't see coming – the desire for free choice in restrooms without regard to biological characteristics. Several Republican lawmakers introduced a bill calling for restrooms, locker-rooms, and dressing rooms to remain reserved for males and females as biologically defined. An uproar followed, and the Governor has come out against the Republican proposal.

A Minnesota family brought suit on behalf of their child in kindergarten who changed gender identity. On March 26 a letter-writer proclaimed "being able to safely use a bathroom of one's choosing is one of the most basic rights I can think of....."

How many "potential" gender alternatives might there be? Some claim a "handful," while Facebook provides 50-plus gender identity alternatives (many duplicative). Regarding the distinction between "sex" and "gender," I found an expert stating: "Sex refers mainly to biology.....Gender is more about your personal sense of who you are....." OK, that's all clear, right? Nope!

For many, the immediate concern is establishing a right to choose restrooms on the basis of something other than the biological characteristics. For those claiming "free choice of restrooms" it's about the right to safety and privacy. Many of us in the "confused population" ask: "Whose safety and privacy?"

If the Governor and other progressives want calm and order to surround this issue, they should do a lot better job of educating those of us who look at this in a traditional context. Otherwise, we will continue to consider this a very silly issue.

