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## TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC" THE GENDER/RESTROOM DEBATE: TANGLED UP IN ITS UNDERWEAR!



By Stephen L. Bakke  May 3, 2016

*Here's what provoked me:*

*Regarding "potty politics," I'm confused! There's no other way to describe it. And think of the new vocabulary that has developed: gender identity, gender neutral, gender confused, non gender confused, "alternate" facilities, gender expression, and on and on! Why all the confusion?*

*Here's my response:*

### **The Gender/Restroom Debate: Tangled Up in Its Underwear!**

I'm confused! A biological woman is challenged after going into a woman's restroom when dressed as a man (her gender identity). A biological woman dressed as a woman, but normally identifying and dressing as a man, is removed from a men's restroom. In both instances, what until recently would have been acceptable challenges, are now labeled as blatant harassment.

A prominent conservative declares he's not objecting to "the Caitlin Jenners of the world." Rather, he is concerned with making it easy for predators. Many "traditionalists" have been chastised for expressing their concern about providing "aid and comfort" to predators. Yet, a committed "restroom rights" enthusiast talked publicly about past predator crimes against unaccompanied children, and how liberal "restroom rules" would reduce such crimes. Well.....are there predators or not?

In the Chicago Public Schools, boys are permitted to undress in the girls' restroom if they wish to because of their gender confusion. If the majority of girls have a problem with this, school officials state that "non gender confused" students should be allowed to use "alternate" facilities. Thus it's the "traditionally gendered" girls, not the "gender confused" boy, who are recommended to use the private "single stall restrooms." Shouldn't it be the other way around?

Questions abound! How can private, gender neutral bathrooms such as on planes, be equated with the gender neutral, non-private, "all in a row" (traditional) style? What happens in non-private shower facilities? Is it transgender predators we are worried about or just plain old predators who see these laws as a welcome mat.

Whose rights are we fighting for: persons entering restrooms consistent with their appearance, or entering restrooms that conflict with their outward appearance - or both? We talk about personal dignity - but for whom? Whose privacy takes priority? Why is a "traditionalist's" claim of privacy rights equated with bigotry? Can't we give respect to a small minority without ignoring privacy desires of the majority?

We must determine if there should be a debate and clarify the debate, otherwise let it drop! I fear the protagonists have become tangled in their underwear?