

Petition to Reverse the Ruling of the SAISD School Board Decision Concerning Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity

Lead with Love

We, the students of San Antonio Schools, want to express love and compassion to all of our fellow students. Those who have strong opinions about their gender identity and are uncomfortable about changing, showering or using facilities designed to suit their biological sex, should have reasonable accommodations made for them, so long as they do not violate the privacy rights of others. Designating a single stalled facility is sufficient based upon the number of students affected. We don't want anyone, especially our fellow students, targeted. However, they are not the only portion of our student body that need compassionate consideration.

***Statistics** reveal that 1 in 2 women have experienced sexual violence other than rape in their lifetime. 42.2% of female rape victims were first raped before age 18. 12.3 % of female and 27.8% of male rape victims were first raped when they were age 10 or younger. These numbers are far greater than those struggling with their gender identity. If someone of the opposite biological sex is allowed into the showers, changing rooms and restrooms of our fellow students who have suffered the pain and trauma of sexual abuse, it could likely trigger tremendous trauma, which would be a tragedy.

Furthermore, this ruling by the SAISD School Board allows young men and women who may not be gender confused to enter into facilities designated for the opposite sex. When asked why they are in an opposite sex facility, they only need to state that they "self-identify" as that particular gender, at that point in time. Such actions would degrade the moral climate of our schools and make it dangerous for young women *and* young men during their most vulnerable times, in the most vulnerable places.

We, who have signed, **request that the SAISD School Board reverse this ruling in favor of policies that value and protect the rights of ALL students** in the San Antonio School District.

***Stats from:** <https://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/pdf/SV-DataSheet-a.pdf>

Confront With Compassion