



**Alaska Association of Student Governments**

**Resolution # 10**

**Transgender Bathroom Policy in the Mat-Su**

**Submitted by: Career Tech High School Student Government**

**October 27, 2022**

**Be it Resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that:**

- 1. Whereas**, on September 7, 2022 the MSBSD School Board voted (5-1) to suspend the district's Transgender Student Guidelines Regarding Use of Communal School Bathrooms which allowed students in the MSBSD to use the bathroom "*assigned to the gender, which the student consistently asserts at school*";<sup>4</sup>
- 2. Whereas**, as a result of this decision, transgender students in the MSBSD must use bathrooms corresponding to their gender assigned at birth or request private facilities,
- 3. Whereas**, transgender individuals are statistically more likely to be the victims of abuse, be it physical, sexual, or otherwise;<sup>7</sup>
- 4. Whereas**, according to Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Transgender and gender-nonbinary teens face greater risk of sexual assault in schools that prevent them from using bathrooms or locker rooms consistent with their gender identity,
- 5. Whereas**, policies that are created to restrict the use of public spaces by certain people in effect not only sanction, but also importantly perpetuate, the belief that the people in question are lesser, other, and *should* be excluded,
- 6. Whereas**, a prominent argument against anti-discriminatory laws in schools is that there will be an increase in sexual assault against students. However, The Des Moines police department has stated that they have seen no correlation between the passing of the anti-discrimination law and an increase in sexual assault cases;<sup>8</sup>
- 7. Whereas**, In Hawai'i, the protection against discrimination in public accommodations on the basis of sex, including gender identity or expression, has

not resulted in increase sexual assault or rape in women's restrooms;<sup>5</sup>

8. **Whereas**, At the suspension inception, the lone opponent Dwight Probasco questioned the stability of the suspension;<sup>1</sup>
9. **Whereas**, The MSBSD is at risk to lose Title IX funding due to this discriminatory suspension;<sup>3</sup>
10. **Whereas**, The state legislature of North Carolina passed HB2, requiring individuals to use bathrooms in accordance with their birth sex, resulting in \$3.76 billion dollars of lost economic value;<sup>6</sup>

**Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments** Opposes the current suspension of transgender individuals' ability to use their preferred bathroom in the Mat-Su School District.

**Action Statement:** if passed by the General Assembly of AASG, this resolution will be brought to the attention of the Mat-Su School Board in order to provide support for a reversal of the policy's suspension and move to an inclusive policy where individuals can use the bathroom of their preference.

Sources:

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2. Boston, 677 Huntington Avenue, and Ma 02115 +1495-1000. "Transgender Teens with Restricted Bathroom Access at Higher Risk of Sexual Assault." *News*, 7 May 2019, [www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/hsph-in-the-news/transgender-teens-restricted-bathroom-access-sexual-assault/](http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/hsph-in-the-news/transgender-teens-restricted-bathroom-access-sexual-assault/).
3. Downing, Suzanne. "Mat-Su Schools Suspends Gender-Bending Bathroom Policy, and It May Lose Federal Funds as a Result." *Must Read Alaska*, 13 Sept. 2022,

mustreadalaska.com/mat-su-schools-suspends-gender-bending-bathroom-policy-and-it-may-lose-federal-funds-as-a-result/.

4. “Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District BoardDocs® Pro.” *Go.boarddocs.com*, 7 Sept. 2022, [go.boarddocs.com/ak/matsu/Board.nsf/vpublic?open#](https://go.boarddocs.com/ak/matsu/Board.nsf/vpublic?open#).”
5. Maza, Carlos, and Luke Brinker. “15 Experts Debunk Right-Wing Transgender Bathroom Myth.” *Media Matters for America*, 19 Mar. 2014, [www.mediamatters.org/sexual-harassment-sexual-assault/15-experts-debunk-right-wing-transgender-bathroom-myth](https://www.mediamatters.org/sexual-harassment-sexual-assault/15-experts-debunk-right-wing-transgender-bathroom-myth).
6. North Carolina, Equality. “HB2 Is Officially Dead and Gone in NC. Here’s Why That Matters.” *EqualityNC*, 3 Dec. 2020, [equalitync.org/news/hb2\\_is\\_officially\\_dead\\_and\\_gone\\_in\\_nc\\_heres\\_why\\_that\\_matters/](https://equalitync.org/news/hb2_is_officially_dead_and_gone_in_nc_heres_why_that_matters/).
7. Office for Victims of Crime. “Sexual Assault: The Numbers | Responding to Transgender Victims of Sexual Assault.” *Ovc.ojp.gov*, June 2014, [ovc.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh226/files/pubs/forge/sexual\\_numbers.html](https://ovc.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh226/files/pubs/forge/sexual_numbers.html).
8. Steinmetz, Katy. “Why LGBT Advocates Say Bathroom ‘Predators’ Argument Is a Red Herring.” *Time*, Time, 2 May 2016, [time.com/4314896/transgender-bathroom-bill-male-predators-argument/](https://time.com/4314896/transgender-bathroom-bill-male-predators-argument/).

The resolution passes with noted opposition

Passed by the Fall 2023 General Assembly of AASG hosted by West Valley High School

*Danika Hamm*

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AASG Vice President, Danika Hamm

*Kathleen A. Navarre*

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AASG Executive Director, Kathleen Navarre