

Urinals De- and Re-commissioned

February 17, 2023

Remember when opponents of the [Equal Rights Amendment](#) said that we would wind up with unisex bathrooms should the constitutional amendment be ratified? And ERA advocates scoffed?

Well, here we are: no ERA, but unisex bathrooms . . . in public schools.

Or, more precisely, two *flavors* of unisex bathrooms: one room for girls along with those boys who identify as girls, and another for boys and those girls who identify as boys.

More bizarrely yet, the board had specified that clothing changes for physical ed. be confined to locker room toilet stalls.

In early February, New Hampshire's Milford School District school board [voted](#) to cover over boys' room urinals with garbage bags while members investigated the cost of turning *all* the restrooms into all-stall accommodations.

Why? A few parents of trans students had complained that urinals made their trans boys uncomfortable — their



girls “transitioning” to become boys didn’t . . . well, I’ll let you imagine some of this.

Of course, urinals in boys’ rooms allow for faster turnover of users. Getting rid of them makes boys spend more time in a place they, as often as not, would like to minimize.

But it affects actual girls negatively, too.

“As a female,” one girl [told](#) a local TV station, “I don’t think it’s safe to have males in our bathroom.”

The board had also ruled that the number of students in each restroom should be limited to the number of stalls — not an efficient way to serve students’ needs, completely ignoring time spent at the sink in front of a mirror. More bizarrely yet, the board had specified that clothing changes for physical ed. be confined to locker room toilet stalls.

Last Friday, students held a [walkout](#). And the school board backpedaled, unbagging the urinals.

Good. But I don’t think anyone can mistake all this “business” for common sense.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.