

MFI Policy Briefing

Transgender Rights Bill - House Docket #431

G.L.B.T. is a familiar acronym for Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgender. But what do transgender and transsexual actually mean?

According to the American Psychiatric Association, transgenderism is a disorder also known as Gender Identity Disorder or **GID**.

According to *Wikipedia*, its precise definition “remains in flux” but includes “people who were assigned a gender, usually at birth and based on their genitals, but who feel that this is a false or incomplete description of themselves.” There are no statistics on how many might be afflicted with **GID**; however, it is estimated that the ratio of male-to-female transsexuals to genetic males is less than five one-hundredths of 1 percent. The ratio of female-to-male transsexuals is considered even smaller.

Transgender Rights Bill Filed

Rep. Carl Sciortino (D-Somerville) has re-filed a bill in the House (Sen. Ben Downing is the Senate sponsor) that would grant special rights to people with **GID** and has found strong support within the homosexual movement, including *MassEquality*, for passage of this legislation. The bill would add the vague category of “gender identity or expression” to the state ban on sex discrimination, defining it as “a gender-related identity, appearance, expression, or behavior of an individual, regardless of the individual’s assigned sex at birth.”

The author of the bill, Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (**GLAD**),

deliberately leaves its terms vague (socially constructed roles unrelated to biology) for future interpretations as new “genders” are discovered (the most recent being “intersex”). **GLAD**’s goal is to deny the immutable biological difference between the sexes in law.



Already, proprietors of all public accommodation are prohibited from discriminating against persons of any sex, or sexual orientation, in the full enjoyment of accommodations offered to the general public. The current law has exceptions for single-sex rest rooms, bathhouses, seashore facilities, fitness facilities, corporations established for the benefits of a single sex, and single-sex rooming houses. The bill would remove, on behalf of the gender-confused, all those exceptions which currently protect the privacy and safety of women and children.

(Un?)foreseen Consequences

If this bill were to become law, the consequences would be chilling. First, school children would be taught that being transgender is normal. And sex change operations and hormone treatments would be topics in sex education classes. Next, women and

children would be put at risk since anyone, regardless of their biological sex, would be allowed access to sensitive areas such as single-sex bathrooms and locker rooms as well as single-sex facilities (i.e. *Curves*). Nothing would prevent a male sexual predator from pretending that he is confused about his sex to gain access to a women’s bathroom.

Questions also remain about whether churches and hospitals would be considered places of public accommodation. A Catholic hospital in California is being sued by a man who was denied breast augmentation surgery. Once same-sex marriage became public policy in

Massachusetts, Catholic Charities was forced to abandon their adoption services.

Take Action

Citizens have the power to stop this bill from enshrining “transgender rights” into law. Please call your state representative and senator today at 617-722-2000 and ask them to oppose **HD431**. Explain that the bill threatens the privacy and safety of women and children on behalf of a very small number of people who claim to have a gender disorder.

For further information and timely updates on this and other bills, visit www.mafamily.org or call MFI at 781-569-0400. Massachusetts Family Institute is a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening the traditional family and Judeo-Christian values. MFI is funded by the generous donations of its supporters.