

Protest Continues Against Transgender Bias Bill

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The County Council's plan to vote Tuesday on legislation that would prohibit discrimination based on gender identity has continued to spark protest. *Susan Jamison*, a parent and lawyer from [Poolesville](#), organized a demonstration at the county pool in [Germantown](#) that Jamison said attracted about 40 people. The group passed out hundreds of fliers to warn residents of the consequences of the bill.

Jamison, who has been battling the county's sex education curriculum, is concerned that the legislation will mean that her 10-year-old daughter would be forced to change in a locker room next to a transgender female.

"People don't understand the problem. There will be no decency here," she said. "If you really want separate facilities for transgenders, spend the money to build them, but don't put boys with male genitals in with our naked daughters."

Jamison said she is considering a lawsuit if the council approves the measure because of substantive changes made to the bill after the public hearing.

The office of council member [George Leventhal](#) (D-At Large), who chairs the health committee, has received a mixed response from residents in e-mails. Answering Jamison's concerns, Leventhal said in an e-mail that the bill was changed to clarify that "public accommodations must be appropriate for the gender that is 'publicly and exclusively expressed or asserted.' "

Leventhal added that he could not, "absolutely put to rest your concern that girls might find themselves in a locker room or dressing room in the presence of a person who expresses or asserts herself as a woman but who still has male genitals, but based on my own sense of the prevalence of that condition in the population, I think the likelihood of that occurring is remote. For the same reason, I do not think it would be cost-effective to build a third category of restroom, dressing room or locker room facilities."

According to the bill's sponsor, council member [Duchy Trachtenberg](#) (D-At Large), 13 states and the District have laws that make it illegal to discriminate against transgendered individuals. Trachtenberg said in a news release that the measure continues to have strong support on the council. The county, she said, "has historically taken the lead in protecting its most vulnerable citizens."