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[LWVSC Testimony H.4756, Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, and Special Laws Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee](#)

H.4756 would require that everyone use only public school restrooms and changing facilities associated with the gender that they were assigned at birth. The League of Women Voters of South Carolina agrees that everyone has a right to safety and privacy in public restrooms. Anyone entering a restroom with the intent to harm another person should face arrest and prosecution.

However, we believe that this bill would create serious problems for transgender persons while not contributing to protecting the privacy and safety interests of the public. In practice, transgender school restroom use has not been a source of significant problems. We know that there have been reasonable negotiated accommodations made in individual schools that have had the positive effect of giving all involved a safe and private experience.

In contrast, this bill would create serious problems. Those who are transitioning usually do not, to varying degrees, conform in appearance to expectations of the gender found on their birth certificates. Demanding that they use a restroom designated for their birth gender therefore exposes them to harassment and bullying. It also creates a significant source of discomfort for cisgender persons, who would often see the appearance of transitioning individuals as concerning and even threatening in that space.

However, it is not just transgender people who do not always conform to social expectations of gender appearance. Many cisgender persons do not conform to those same expectations. Many of those persons would be subject to very intrusive inquiries, or even legal action, from others who have wrongly interpreted their gender.

We also note that the impact of this bill would fall largely on children and adolescents. Combined with the normal insecurities and uncertainties at these ages, the impact of this bill could be devastating to them.

The League of Women Voters of South Carolina asks that you do not forward this bill with a favorable recommendation.

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