

00:00 [Music] *In 2012, a movement to install gender-neutral bathrooms began to take hold on university campuses around the country.*

*Since then, various institutions, cities, and states took action to fuel the so-called, "Bathroom Wars."*

*Some states approved laws requiring gender-neutral signage on single occupancy bathrooms.*

*Other states approved bathroom surveillance bills, requiring people to use bathroom matching their gender assigned at birth.*

00:30 A lot of people view Washington as the battleground for 2017.

00:34 If we are not gonna have equality for everybody, we do not have a quality at all.

00:38 As it stands now males can use female restrooms and it's wrong.

00:43 We're not monsters we're not freaks.

00:46 We have to draw the line now. If we don't do it now it will be something else, it will be something worse.

00:50 All we want to do is go to the bathroom.

00:53: The rights of those people who are most vulnerable is potentially up for a vote this November

00:58: How much is your privacy worth?

01:02 [Music] *Transgender Bathrooms: The Debate in Washington State*

*Since 2006 it has been unlawful to discriminate based on sexual orientation in Washington State.*

*In 2015, the Washington State Human Rights Commission helped expand the state's anti-discrimination laws to include gender identity.*

*Claiming the new rule created more problems than protections, activists rallied to reverse the 2015 gender identity protections.*

01:11 [Music]

01:20 [Music]

01:24 The state conversations that happen in Washington as well as other states might be the most important place for conversations about transgender bathroom protections and other protections, too. On one side of the debate you have the group called Just Want Privacy which is spearheading the campaign to get I-1552 on the ballot. There's a group that's opposing this initiative called Washington Won't Discriminate. And that's made up of people from the LGBT community, a lot of progressive politicians, and a lot of large businesses.

01:54 There's a lot of misconceptions about what Just Want Privacy is. We are a political campaign. We exist for the sole purpose of working to repeal our state's open bathroom and locker room rule. Most of us fully believe that everybody deserves to be free of discrimination in things like employment and housing. That wasn't an issue for us. In December of 2015 our state's Human Rights Commission decided to impose this new rule on the entire state that opened basically every bathroom, locker room, changing

room on the basis of gender identity versus anatomy. Because we have this new rule that says anything goes. Any male who decides to walk into your bathroom can declare his right to be there and there's nothing that you can do to prove that he's lying. And it felt so regressive and so offensive to tell women that they don't have any -- there's no kind of objective criteria.

02:50 Washington won't discriminate was started last year in 2016 to keep our existing non-discrimination protections in place. Initiative 1552, if it passed, would prohibit transgender people from using the facilities that match who they are. That really silences people and makes people scared to come out or to share their story.

03:17 I think that looks good.

03:19 Think about an open ticket for people to discriminate against trans people

03:24 Thanks for being my fashion advisor.

You're welcome.

03:27 To be forced to use the opposite sex bathroom or changing facility or anything else is incredibly demoralizing.

03:37: You have President Donald Trump coming in here and he rolled back some Obama era protections against transgender students for using bathrooms and locker rooms. You can expect for the next four or eight years under a Republican president we're not likely to see rules or policies intended to protect transgender people.

03:59 Men who walk into any women's bathroom at any time of the day or night regardless of who's in there and use it and nobody can say boo. And if we do then we're the ones that are bigoted. I just want to keep naked men from showering with my nine-year-old granddaughter. Does that make sense?

04:24 So I would like the law to be where it was before. Which is, you know, men use men women use women. It's a confusion of not just gender identity, but who are they? Are they human beings? I don't know.

04:40 What do you mean by that?

04:42 I'm saying that they're confused. They don't even know if they're human being because human beings are created in the image of God and they're created either male or female.

04:57 There's trans people everywhere. That's what we need to let them know is that we're in all walks of life and that we're not going to stand by and let our rights go by the wayside. This 1552 - it affects every one of us, in a very different way for each one of us individually. That's what leads me to want to advocate now is that there's a need, there's a there's a definite need. So I thank you all for being here and we will decline to sign.

05:43 It isn't about hating anybody. I don't agree with their life for the way they see the world but that doesn't mean they don't have a right to live that way. They do. We do know that there will still be transgender women in our bathrooms we know that because that's not the issue. The issue is poorly written policy that strips rights and actually compromises safety. And it's so counterintuitive. all this work we do to train girls - trust your instincts, you know. We have to ignore all those and normalize the

presence of males in our spaces we're expected to just be okay. That the person with a beard who looks like a lumberjack walking in there can say that he's female and that's okay, I guess he is. No! I think that's reasonable to push back and if it does set precedent then that's great I think.

06:29 There are I think 17 states that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. If we lose here in Washington, we could lose anywhere in the country.

06:37 We're trying to restore what was lost and then create an even platform, invite people to the table and then we can have a discussion about best ways to proceed.

06:46

if I 1552 does get on the ballot and it does get approved by voters that has some pretty big implications because if that can happen in a state like Washington, that's a good indicator that voters across the country would be willing to roll back or curb some kind of protections against transgender students and bathrooms and locker rooms.

07:06 [Music] *Supporters of I-1552 had months to collect the 330,000 signatures necessary to put the measure on the November 2017 ballot.*

*For the second year in a row, they did not receive enough signatures.*

*I-1552 was not on the November 2017 ballot but the debate continues nationwide. In 2018, Massachusetts will face a similar vote.*

*If it passes, Massachusetts will become the first state in the nation to overturn existing laws that prevent discrimination based on gender identity.*