

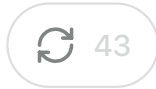
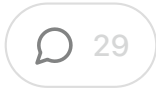
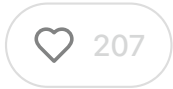
# Montana Republican Claims Bathroom Ban Is Needed Because Some Trans Women Like Other Women

The statement raises the question as to what the representative thinks about lesb bathrooms.



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Yesterday, the Montana House Judiciary Committee voted along party lines, 1: [advance a bill banning transgender people from many public restrooms](#), sending the full House floor. During the committee hearing, transgender representative Howell and Zooey Zephyr passionately opposed the bill, highlighting the challenges of enforcement and the lack of evidence that transgender people pose any safety risks in public restrooms. Only a few Republicans spoke in favor of the bill, including Representative Jedediah Hinkle, who argued that it was necessary to prevent people from “getting on bathroom sounds. Hinkle also pointed out that some transgender women are attracted to other women, raising questions about whether the same logic could be used to target lesbians as well.

[House bill 121](#), which is the first major anti-transgender bill to get a hearing in the 2025 legislative cycle, was introduced by Kerri Seekins-Crowe, who [once stated](#) she would not allow her child to transition if it would prevent their suicide. It would ban transgender people from restrooms matching their gender identity in all “public buildings,” defined as any facility “owned or leased by a public agency.” This bill’s definition extends to rest stops, public colleges and universities, public school libraries, museums, state airports, publicly owned hospitals, park restrooms, and more. The measure would also include Montana’s state capitol building and courthouses.

The bill faced fierce opposition during its expedited hearing on Friday. Those speaking against it included major operators of domestic violence shelters, who warned that the measure could jeopardize funding tied to providing equal access to transgender individuals seeking shelter. Additionally, representatives from numerous cities and counties across Montana argued that the bill would expose them to

for enforcing a policy they cannot reasonably implement—namely, policing the genitals of individuals entering public restrooms.

The bill also faced strong resistance from transgender men, several of whom testified against it. Shawn Reagor of the Montana Gender Alliance challenged the practicality and logic of the proposed enforcement, asking, “How is the state expected to prevent me from using the men's bathroom? How is the state expected to know that I might be using the women's bathroom and require me to do so? It doesn't make any sense.”

On Monday, as the Judiciary Committee **debated the bill's passage**, transgender Representative Zooey Zephyr highlighted a glaring oversight by the bill's sponsor, noting that she “had not spoken with the impacted organizations,” including the YWCA. The YWCA, which operates a domestic violence shelter in the sponsor's district, had testified against the bill. Zephyr added, “As a trans person, this bill will directly impact me, and I've been happily using the women's restroom throughout my tenure without issue.”

Representative SJ Howell concurred, stating “Nobody should have to produce a certificate to use the bathroom... Nobody should have to take a blood test to use the bathroom. This is ridiculous.”

However, Representative Jedediah Hinkle, a Republican and vocal supporter of trans legislation in Montana, presented a startling rationale for banning trans people from using bathrooms that align with their gender identity: the sexual orientation of some transgender women. Hinkle claimed to know an individual who, according to him, “became transgender, changed [her] name to a woman's name, began dressing as a woman... but the interesting thing about it, [she] was emphatically clear that [she] was not attracted to men, [she] was attracted to women. So we have an individual who is dressing like a woman, changing [their] name to a woman, but at the same time attracted to women.” Hinkle then escalated his argument further.

an inflammatory and baseless comparison, likening transgender individuals to janitors who, he alleged, “get off” on hearing people urinate.

Watch Hinkle’s statements here:

Representative J. Hinkle implies Trans Women "get off" to bathroom sound

Of course, targeting individuals for their sexual orientation in bathrooms and locker rooms is nothing new. Long before the current debates over transgender people in these spaces, similar discriminatory arguments were levied against gay and lesbian individuals. For instance, as recently as 2002, lesbians **faced bans** from private spaces in some schools. Representative Hinkle’s comments raise a troubling question: would his rationale now extend to banning lesbians from women’s restrooms and locker rooms? Or is liking other women only considered a scandal when it involves a transgender woman?

Republicans voted to advance the bill out of committee in a 12-8 party-line vote

sending it to the full House floor. If it passes, it will likely be the first anti-trans bathroom ban to receive a full House vote in 2025. The bill's implications could be far-reaching, requiring state-owned facilities to devise enforcement mechanisms that could inadvertently target cisgender individuals as well. With an immediate effective date upon passage and the governor's signature, the bill's impact could be felt quickly should it pass.

Montana residents can contact their elected representatives through [Datamad](#) to share their opinions on the bill.

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Jerry Portwood *The Queer Love Project* 3h

This is the argument I've been waiting for! Because, as a gay man, why wouldn't men be worried about me being at the urinal next to them than a trans man or woman being in a panic and fear is so baseless and irrational.

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TransFormAndFunction *TransFormAndFunction* 3h *Edited*

I think it's pretty clear they won't be done with this crusade until all LGBTQ+ people are They are actively making moves against even cis gay/lesbian/bi people; their campaign people is simply at a later stage

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