

Christian Coalition of Washington

Educating and Activating Christians for Social, Political, and Spiritual Action

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Danger Lurks in Local Locker Rooms

One of the state's worst ever administrative rulings has Gov. Inslee's support

"I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts." -Will Rogers

Countless households will pack their lawn chairs and sunscreen into the family wagon later today, in preparation for the "Fourth-of-July" holiday weekend, winding up late Tuesday evening. Americans generally consider the national observance a special time for picnics, parades, and fireworks. But for concerned moms in our state, it will be a make-or-break weekend for collecting enough signatures to roll back an unconscionable new public "shower room" policy.

Background: In 1949, the Washington State Legislature provided for the establishment of a "Human Rights Commission" to investigate complaints of discriminatory practices in the areas of employment, places of public resort, accommodation, or amusement; as well as in real estate, credit, and insurance transactions.

According to the commission's website, there are "five Commissioners appointed by the Governor, who appoint an Executive Director. The Executive Director appoints investigative staff, clerks, and other employees as needed to conduct the day-to-day operations of the agency. The Commissioners provide policy direction, adopt regulations, and meet monthly to pass upon the investigative finding determinations recommended by staff, review and approve settlement agreements..."¹—ad infinitum.

Specifically targeted, in 1949, were incidences of discrimination based on race, creed, color, and/or national origin. Needless-to-say, additional categories of public "no-no's" have since been added, including sexual "orientation," and the recently concocted labyrinth of so-called *gender identities*.

Back to the future. In December 2015, the Human Rights Commission slithered into previously uncharted waters, ordering the opening of all male and female group locker rooms and bathrooms to any who "identify" with the opposite sex—no questions asked. The new ruling (WAC 162.32) makes it illegal for schools and businesses with eight or more employees to bar a man from entering a women's restroom, locker room, shower or sauna. Even questioning an individual as to his or her sexual "identity" invites stiff penalties.

Clarified: If a man who looks like a man enters your little girl's shower room at school or at the YMCA, YOU could face stiff penalties should you question the man's presence or intentions.

While schools, businesses and organizations that cater to the adolescent sports and recreation markets should be refusing to comply with such a foolish, lewd, and contemptable new "human rights policy," the silence statewide has been, as they say, deafening.

Enter Kaeley Haver, a mid-thirties single mom with young children who gets it. She questions how five unelected state employees can enact laws affecting seven million people in our state.

Kaeley says she practically grew up at a nearby YMCA, eventually landing a position as the director of marketing for nine YMCA facilities in Pierce and Kitsap Counties. Recognized for both her administrative and people skills, she was later promoted to the position of Communications Director, answering only to the organization's CEO.

As it were, everything was fine until that afternoon when Kaeley's boss handed her a binder containing certain corporate policy changes that she was to review and prepare for implementation.

Opening the materials at home after dinner, she was immediately shaken to learn of a bizarre new company policy seriously impacting the comfort and safety of women and children in their many recreational facilities. While part of her duties had been to conduct background checks on prospective new members to screen for registered sex offenders, and view surveillance tapes for suspicious or predatory behaviors, she was now being asked to throw caution to the wind.

As a survivor of sexual abuse spanning 10 years of her childhood, Kaeley explained as best she could that the new policy was indefensible and would be interpreted as a green light by sex predators.

In a subsequent blog reprinted in *The Federalist*,² Kaeley explained through tears that for years, she hated certain things about herself. She wrote:

"I hated that 'she' didn't know any better, that it took her another ten years to figure out why she still slept with the light on and showered in her underwear and vigilantly lined the crack under the bathroom door with a beach towel and destroyed her teeth with gum she relentlessly chewed as a means of escaping the recollection of his breath on her face."

Don't they know that, for women who have experienced sexual trauma, finding the courage to use a locker room at all is a freaking badge of honor?

"Why would people knowingly invite further exploitation by creating policies with no safeguards in place to protect them from injury? With zero screening options to ensure that biological males who enter locker rooms actually identify as female, how could a woman be sure the person staring at her wasn't exploiting her? Why is it okay to make her wonder?"

Although this audience may be moved by Kaeley's unfortunate childhood experiences, her employer was not. She was asked to either accept the new open locker-room policy, quietly resign her position with severance pay and a non-disclosure agreement, or be fired immediately. As a Christian, a mom, and a sexual abuse survivor, she could see no alternative but to be fired forthwith.

After a fretful time of tears and worrisome thoughts as to how she was going to provide for her children, the Lord began to open new doors for her, including taking the lead in a statewide initiative campaign to repeal the foolish and dangerous arbitrary ruling of the State Human Rights Commission.

I-1552—CLOSING THE PREDATOR LOOPHOLE is something every pastor, priest, parishioner and parent should support. But it requires the signatures of some 330,000 registered voters, not-later-than noon Thursday, July 6 in order to get the measure on November's General Election ballot.

Details are available on line at: www.justwantprivacy.org, or by dialing 425-409-8186.

Patriots, let's lend Kaeley and the many other concerned moms a hand in these final hours of signature gathering for I-1552. And, let's do it before we head to the fireworks this coming Tuesday night. Amen?

Rick Forcier

¹ www.hum.wa.gov/about-us

² Haver, Kaeley, "A rape survivor speaks out about Transgender bathrooms," thefederalist.com/?s=kaeley, 11/23/2015