



Verbal Testimony in Opposition to SB153

Hello, I am here representing the Libertarian Party of Nevada. We object to SB153 because it does not clearly prohibit biological men from being housed in women's prisons.

This bill would require that transgender prisoners be housed according to "generally accepted best practices", which is entirely too vague. Decisions about how to house violent criminals must be made with physical safety as the top priority. Lawmakers must not leave the door open to gender identity "self-ID" being used as the basis for prisoner housing.

It has been acknowledged that sexual predators will game any system and take any opportunity to access victims. People who are psychologically capable of violent rape will not draw the line at lying about their gender identity, and prison administrators should not be put in the position of trying to evaluate their sincerity. We respectfully request that this bill be amended to clearly specify that biological men may not be housed in women's facilities, and vice versa.

Advocates for this bill argue that it is unsafe for trans-identified prisoners to be housed in accordance with their biological sex. I'm sure that's true – for the same reasons that it is dangerous to allow self-ID.

It is perfectly reasonable to make accommodations to protect the physical safety of prisoners who may be at higher risk of violent assault – but these accommodations should not include an option for transfer to facilities intended for the opposite sex.

Any legislation on this issue needs to be absolutely clear in its terms. There is a reason that separate prison facilities for men and women exist to begin with. This is a situation where biology and anatomy matter more than subjective gender identity. No person with a penis should be incarcerated with women, and the law should reflect that. Thank you for your time.