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Rosalyn Kahn

5/9/13

HW #5

[Re "Transgender rights," Editorial, May 3](#)

At any given school, transgender kids likely make up a tiny percentage of the student body. Why then should the vast majority be required to accept sharing a bathroom or locker room with a student who "feels at odds" with his or her physical gender? You blithely dismiss the "discomfort" others may feel and cast it as evidence of discrimination.

I would never want to see such a student taunted. However, until a transgender person physically becomes the gender that he or she feels we must recognize, physical gender should determine access to bathrooms and locker rooms.

Though many wish to blur gender lines between men and women, we should stop and think about the consequences of these actions and their long-term effects on our society. Life is not always fair, and fairness can't and shouldn't be the only question society asks in establishing social policy.

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<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/letters/la-le-0508-wednesday-transgender-20130508,0,1778598.story>

This is clearly an argument because it has a strong view on the subject of society's treatment of transgender individuals. Unfortunately I do not agree with this individual. The letter's focus is to express an opinion that emphasizes segregating transgender children from the other children on the grounds that it causes discomfort. The central claim is that transgenders should not share or access the same bathroom of children who identify with their physical gender. The individual claims "life isn't always fair." I can see how many individuals who feel disgusted by transgenders would feel completely swayed by this argument. However, it is quite frankly, extremely weak. It is true that life isn't fair, that's why the children who were not born into the wrong body should suck it up and share a facility with a transgender individual. The writer of this letter connotates strongly that transgenders are freaks, even though she says, "I would never want to see such a student taunted." When she states, "fairness can't and shouldn't be the only question society asks in establishing social policy" she forgets that despite the fact that fairness isn't the only thing that establishes a good social policy, fairness is drastically essential. Less than a hundred years ago, African Americans were not allowed to share the same facilities due to the "discomfort" of the white men. And I therefore ask, is that a good social policy? This argument is highly illogical.