

Civic Minds

Date: Friday, April 22, 2016

E-Edition Date: Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Article Title: Va. school's transgender bathroom rule tossed out by court

Section: Main, A4

Vocabulary:

Look up the definition of ***precedent***. Please write the definition and create a new sentence, using your own words.

"The appeals court's ruling establishes legal ***precedent*** in every state in the 4th Circuit, including North Carolina."

Comprehension Questions

1. What did a federal appeals court rule Tuesday regarding a policy barring a transgender student from using the boys' restrooms at his Virginia high school?
2. A three-judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the Gloucester County School Board's policy. A federal judge had previously rejected Gloucester High School student Gavin Grimm's sex-discrimination claim. What groups are closely watching this case?
3. Transgender rights have become the latest _____ battleground issue after the Supreme Court laid to rest the gay-marriage debate when it ruled last year that same-sex couples had the right to marry.
4. The appeals court's ruling establishes legal precedent in every state in the 4th Circuit, including North Carolina, which faces a lawsuit challenging a new state law requiring what?
5. The sweeping law, which also barred cities from passing anti-discrimination ordinances like one in Charlotte, has prompted what?
6. List a few of the boycotts and backlashes the article talked about, due to the ordinance passing.
7. Grimm was born female but identifies as male. He was able to use the boys' restrooms at the school for several weeks in 2014. What happened after parents complained?
8. What is gender dysphoria?

Class Discussion Questions and Essay Prompts:

- ***Do you know anyone that has gender dysphoria? What has been their experience? Have they had positive experiences? Negative? Please share.***
- ***What is your school's policy on this issue?***
- ***Is there support for students at your school that are transgendered?***
- ***Why would parents be concerned about schools allowing the opposite sex into bathrooms? Could others abuse this policy?***

Grimm called the policy stigmatizing. School officials said it respects the privacy of all students. (This was after parents complained, the school board adopted a rule requiring students to use either the restroom that corresponds with their biological gender or a single-stall restroom).

- Why would Grimm feel stigmatized with that decision?
- Is this fair to all students? Does it respect the privacy of all students? Why or why not? Is this a good compromise?

Essay

- What is your opinion on this issue?
- Should transgendered students be allowed to use the bathrooms they identify with? Why or why not?
- How do you protect the privacy of all students?
- Is there a better compromise? Explain.
- This has been a recent hot topic. Have you discussed this with your parents? If not, talk with them. What are their feelings on the subject? Were you surprised with their opinion? Why or why not? Did it match your own feelings?

In a statement released today (Wed. April 20, 2016), Target is welcoming transgender shoppers to use restrooms and fitting rooms that corresponds with their gender identity.

The Minneapolis-based retailer released a statement on inclusivity on Tuesday amid national conversation about protection rights for the LGBTQ community – as North Carolina remains in the spotlight for restricting transgender people to use the bathroom of their choice.

Molly Snyder, a Target spokeswoman, told a Minnesota publication it is not a new policy, but the retailer wanted to clarify its position. This appears to be a first for a big-box retailers.

A statement was released on the company's website.

“Inclusivity is a core belief at Target. It’s something we celebrate. We stand for equality and equity, and strive to make our guests and team members feel accepted, respected and welcomed in our stores and workplaces every day.

We believe that everyone—every team member, every guest, and every community—deserves to be protected from discrimination, and treated equally. Consistent with this belief, Target supports the federal Equality Act, which provides protections to LGBT individuals, and opposes action that enables discrimination.

In our stores, we demonstrate our commitment to an inclusive experience in many ways. Most relevant for the conversations currently underway, we welcome transgender team members and guests to use the restroom or fitting room facility that corresponds with their gender identity. We regularly assess issues and consider many factors such as impact to our business, guests and team members. Given the specific questions these legislative proposals raised about how we manage our fitting rooms and restrooms, we felt it was important to state our position.

Everyone deserves to feel like they belong. And you’ll always be accepted, respected and welcomed at Target.”

- Do you agree or disagree with their decision? Why?

Newspaper-related CBA activity: U.S. Policy

How the United States government interacts with the world affects people across the globe. Analyze and evaluate the causes and effects of US foreign policy on people in the United States and across the world.

- Using The Seattle Times e-edition, find an article from this week that deals with world politics or foreign policy.
- What are the main points of view from someone living in that particular country? How is that “view” similar and different than your own opinion, regarding the specific issue the article is discussing?
- Why is it important to study and learn about foreign policy? How does it help you understand the world we live in, using current issues and events?

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