

Julie Zeller

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Committee Secretary  
Legal Affairs and Safety Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

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I am writing to express my strong objections to the changes to the Births, Deaths And Marriages Registration Bill 2022 that would allow sex self-identification in Queensland.

The Australia Government, in partnership with State and Territory Governments, currently has a campaign to improve respect, particularly respect against women. As the campaign material says, "Not all disrespect towards women results in violence. But all violence against women starts with disrespectful behaviour."

The proposed Bill will lead to increase disrespectful behaviour, and therefore violence, against women. The Bill itself is disrespectful to women, and I am deeply offended that it is even being considered.

To be clear, a woman is an adult, human female.

This Bill will allow a man (an adult human male) to identify as a woman.

This is disrespectful to women in many ways.

1. If a man can identify as a woman, he can claim to represent women. Will a gender quota for a political party or a board allow a biological man to identify as a woman and be able to represent her? A biological man has never, and can never, know the lived experience of a woman. Has he ever needed or used a tampon? Has he been pregnant? Has he had ovarian cancer? Has he feared for his safety walking to his car? Has he been subject to misogyny? It is disrespectful to say that any biological male can represent me, a biological female, in regards to female matters.

2. If a man can identify as a woman, he can take opportunities that were created for women. It has taken many years for women to have the same opportunities as men in many places. For example, on the sporting field the AFLW competition is only brand new. Women still are at a disadvantage when we look at the gender pay gap. Women are still more likely to have a career break due to child bearing – simply because only women can bear children. Many opportunities for women are created because of the disadvantage they are at due to their biology. And yet, under this legislation, a man could self-identify as a woman, having suffered none of those disadvantages, and take a woman's place in that opportunity. That is disrespectful to women. I am bitterly disappointed when I see a women's opportunity is open to anyone that 'identifies' as a woman.
3. If a man can identify as a woman, how is a woman to describe herself? There is already stories of information or support groups for pregnant women, for mothers, for those suffering from diseases or conditions that *only* affect females not being *allowed* to use the language that has always described them, rather reducing them to biological parts. Those with a vagina? Those with ovaries? So disrespectful to women. I will not accept being referred to in these ways. How disrespectful to me.
4. If a man can identify as a woman, how can a woman have a guaranteed safe space? A woman who has been the victim of rape, of violence against women, of domestic violence – how will they ever be comfortable in a support group where a biological male can attend 'as a woman', or they request a female nurse and are confronted with a biological male. They could be traumatised all over again. Disrespect.
5. If a man can identify as a woman, how can we trust that our young girls are safe in the female change rooms? How many paedophiles will exploit this Bill

Why is it that I would be condemned for claiming to be Aboriginal when I am not, or disabled when I am not, yet a male could claim to be a woman and it is accepted, even celebrated, and I am condemned for opposing it?

How is it that we can ignore scientific facts that have been known and accepted for decades – that there are two sexes and that humans cannot change sex – yet we suddenly will ignore those facts? Will an archaeologist dig up my body in 500 years and proclaim anything contradictory to the fact that I'm female? How is our law enforcement going to identify a decomposed body if that body is female (according to well established scientific fact) but we've allowed that person to write male over all their official documents? How do we expect a doctor to properly treat a patient – do they need a prostate check or a pap smear – if their records are not factual?

This Bill is not only disrespectful to women. It is also disrespectful to men. I don't have the lived experience of a man, I shouldn't be able to represent men in matters that pertain only to them. I shouldn't be able to self-identify one and take their place in a men's sport team. I

can't give a man's perspective on prostate cancer support. I'm not going to disrespect men and pretend that I do.

If you would like to see how much disrespect is in this debate already, simply google "JK Rowling Women" and you'll see how disrespected she has been for simply stating facts. The threats of violence against her are alarming.

I am proud to be a woman. I am not a cis-woman. I am a woman. Don't let facts be buried. Please respect us.

Kind regards,



Julie Zeller  
Woman – Adult Human Female