

Governor Rhoden  
500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501

March 13, 2025

Dear Governor Larry Rhoden,

Independent Women fights for women by expanding support for policy solutions that aren't just well-intended, but actually enhance freedom, opportunities, and well-being. Independent Women is also the author of the Stand with Women Act, which is the sex-definition and preservation of female spaces model legislation that has been implemented across the country and most recently used as the basis for the President's executive order to define sex-based words.

We respectfully write to ask that you please sign House Bill 1259 into law.

We have seen firsthand the negative repercussions of allowing men into female spaces, such as locker rooms and public school restrooms. Instances of males demanding access to women's spaces are happening repeatedly all across the country. In [South Dakota](#), in particular, Cody Grace's two teenage daughters were confronted with a male in their high school girls' bathroom. Mr. Grace found himself in a battle with school administrators and school board members who did nothing to ensure the safety of South Dakota girls.

HB1259 would safeguard girls' rights, privacy, and safety in some of the most vulnerable single-sex spaces in public schools, including changing rooms, restrooms, and sleeping quarters. HB1259 is not about discriminating or excluding anyone. It is about ensuring there are standards for single-sex spaces in public schools.

Please stand with the over 280,000 women and girls in South Dakota and sign HB1259 into law. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Beth Parlato*

**Beth Parlato**

*Senior Legal Advisor  
Independent Women Law Center*

**Cody Grace**

*Independent Women Feature Storyteller  
Resident of South Dakota, 57350*

For questions, email [states@iww.org](mailto:states@iww.org).