

## Idaho Law Limiting Restroom Use for Trans Students Blocked by Court



A federal judge has issued a temporary restraining order blocking an Idaho state law that required public school students to use restrooms according to their assigned sex at birth. The decision comes as part of an ongoing lawsuit filed by the family of a transgender middle school student, represented by Lambda Legal.

U.S. District Judge David Nye clarified that his recent order does not pass judgment on the case's merits. Instead, it aims to maintain the current situation until a more comprehensive examination can occur during a scheduled hearing on September 13th.

Peter Renn, a lawyer from Lambda Legal representing the plaintiffs, expressed relief at the court's decision. He emphasized the importance of safeguarding the rights and well-being of transgender students, ensuring their fundamental dignity, safety, and respect within the school environment.

**See also:** [Idaho lawmakers propose bill to reinstate firing squad for executions](#)

In response, the Idaho Attorney General's office, led by Raul Labrador, expressed anticipation regarding the upcoming hearing, indicating the state's intent to present its case.

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The lawsuit was initiated by the family of a transgender student using the pseudonym Rebecca Roe, along with a student association. Filed last month, the legal challenge asserts that the Idaho law, signed by Republican Governor Brad Little in March, constitutes unlawful discrimination based on gender identity and infringes upon students' privacy rights.

This legal development is part of a broader trend in Republican-led states, where legislation targeting transgender youth has gained momentum in recent years. Among such measures are so-called "bathroom bills," which dictate restroom usage according to birth sex, and restrictions on gender-affirming medical treatments for minors.

The Idaho law in question contains provisions that empower students to sue schools for \$5,000 if they encounter a transgender student in a restroom that the law prohibits. Critics argue that this effectively places a financial incentive on identifying transgender students and encourages a hostile environment. The lawsuit emphasizes that this provision places transgender students at risk and fosters an atmosphere of intimidation.

The legislation also stipulates that schools must provide a "reasonable accommodation" for transgender students who are unwilling or unable to use restrooms based on their assigned sex at birth. However, the lawsuit challenges the adequacy of such alternative accommodations, contending that they often fall short in comparison to facilities used by other students. Additionally, these accommodations tend to be located in less accessible areas and contribute to stigmatization.

The legal landscape concerning restroom usage policies for transgender students has seen division among federal courts. The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, based in Richmond, Virginia, declared a Virginia school's policy illegal, while the 11th Circuit, headquartered in Atlanta, upheld a similar policy in a Florida school.

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As the legal battle continues, all eyes are on the upcoming hearing, where arguments will be presented on both sides. The outcome could potentially have far-reaching implications for transgender students' rights, privacy, and dignity within the education system.

The recent temporary restraining order issued by U.S. District Judge David Nye has halted the enforcement of an Idaho state law mandating restroom use based on birth sex for public school students. This legal maneuver follows a lawsuit initiated by the family of a transgender student and a student association, alleging discrimination and privacy violations. The case reflects a broader legal debate concerning transgender rights and highlights the ongoing struggle to ensure inclusivity and respect for all students. The upcoming hearing on September 13th will serve as a pivotal moment in determining the fate of the contested law and its implications for transgender students across the state.

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