To the Governor and lawmakers of the Great State of Tennessee:

As a pastor of a local church with over \_\_\_\_\_ members, I write in support of Senate Bill 2387-House Bill 2414.

I believe the state should value and respect the privacy that our young people have a right to expect when using a bathroom or locker room at one of our public schools and colleges. And that’s what this bill does.

The right to privacy in such personal settings has never been an issue before to the overwhelming majority of Tennesseans, but now some have chosen to make it an issue. Under these circumstances, to not make a decision or to veto the bill is to decide that biological sex does not make a difference.

Contrary to what some would say, Senate Bill 2387-House Bill 2414 does not authorize our public schools to discriminate against anyone’s right to privacy. To the contrary, the bill allows our public schools to make reasonable accommodations for those Tennesseans for whom privacy in such settings is not important.

Moreover, with regard to another issue relevant to this debate, you will doubtless hear that in response to a bill protecting bathroom privacy in North Carolina, PayPal has withdrawn plans to expand its operations in the state with new facility in Charlotte. Executives at PayPal apparently misunderstand the statewide law—but even so, Dan Forest, Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina, courageously responded with a [statement](http://ltgov.nc.gov/content/lt-governor-forest-responds-paypal-decision) that reads in part,

If our action in keeping men out of women's bathrooms and showers protected the life of just one child or one woman from being molested or assaulted, then it was worth it. North Carolina will never put a price tag on the value of our children.

Moreover, as Family Research Council President Tony Perkins recently [stated](http://www.frc.org/pressrelease/mississippi-survey-released-today-shows-nearly-two-thirds-support-protection-from-government-discrimination),

Long-term, political leaders who refuse to sacrifice fundamental freedoms under the threats of big business and big entertainment are rewarded with support of voters as their states find such policies lead to stronger economies, stronger communities and stronger families.

Recall once more NC Lieutenant Governor Forest’s [statement](http://ltgov.nc.gov/content/lt-governor-forest-responds-paypal-decision) about PayPal. His courage is refreshing, but I don’t believe it is unique to North Carolina. We have that kind of courage in Tennessee as well.

I look to you to showcase this courage by supporting Senate Bill 2387/House Bill 2414 and signing it into law.

Sincerely,

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