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## **FEDERAL CIVIL RIGHTS LAWSUIT FILED AGAINST WILLIAMSTON SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**POLICIES VIOLATE STUDENTS' PERSONAL IDENTITY PROTECTED BY *OBERGEFELL v. HODGES*;  
UNCONSTITUTIONAL POLICIES SHUT PARENTS OUT OF THEIR CHILD'S HEALTH DECISIONS;  
POLICIES ALLOW BOYS TO USE GIRLS' SHOWERS/BATHROOMS AND TO JOIN GIRLS' TEAMS**  
*Reynolds v. Talberg*, U.S. District Court (W.D. MI)

LANSING, MICHIGAN – In the first lawsuit in the country based upon an individual's personal religious identity protected by *Obergefell v. Hodges*, parents and students filed a civil rights lawsuit today in federal court against the Williamston Community School District and six School Board members. The lawsuit alleges numerous civil rights and constitutional violations arising from policies recently passed by the School Board. The Complaint sets out ten counts; it charges the School Board failed to comply with existing state and constitutional law and acted outside its legal authority (see the full complaint at <https://greatlakesjc.org/cases/williamston>).

### **SUMMARY OF PLAINTIFFS' COMPLAINT:**

- In violation of *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the policies deny students' their right to privacy, dignity, and personal identity (pgs. 18 – 20 of the complaint).
- The policies violate parents' right to be notified of their children's health decisions (pgs. 16 – 18).
- Parents' and students' right to free speech is denied by these policies (pgs. 19 – 22).
- Students are denied their constitutional right to receive a free public education (pgs. 25 – 26).
- The policies violate Title IX by allowing boys to take spots on girls' teams, or *vice versa*. (pgs. 27 – 28).
- The policies violate the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act by creating a hostile and offensive environment (pgs. 30 – 32).
- The School Board acted without legal authority by adding special non-discrimination categories explicitly rejected by the state legislature (pgs. 13 – 15).

Plaintiffs request the Federal Court declare the policies unconstitutional and issue preliminary and permanent injunctions against implementation of the policies.

David A. Kallman, Senior Counsel with the Great Lakes Justice Center and lead attorney on the case, remarked: "Common sense and common decency demand that biologically intact boys should not be showering with girls, should not be allowed to use girls' bathroom and locker room facilities, or take a girl's spot on an athletic team. Moreover, parents should not be denied critical health information about their children."

William Wagner, President of the Great Lakes Justice Center added: "The Supreme Court in *Obergefell* recognized that all citizens have a right to privacy, dignity, and personal identity. These rights must be protected by the school district for all students."

*From a local school board, to the United States Supreme Court, the Great Lakes Justice Center defends truth and protects liberty. The attorneys at the Justice Center tirelessly champion the cause of the defenseless and oppressed. The Great Lakes Justice Center is a non-profit organization. To support the Justice Center's important work, please visit [www.greatlakesjc.org](http://www.greatlakesjc.org).*