

**Comment in support of P 43-15, the Transgender Law Center's proposed revision to International Building Code**

Most people don't realize under the International Code Council's current building codes, public and commercial spaces are actually required to restrict single-user restrooms to only one gender. This doesn't make sense.

The International Code Council should adopt P 43-15, following the examples set by Austin, TX; Santa Fe, NM, Washington, DC; Seattle; and a number of other cities that now require single-user restrooms to be inclusive of all genders. Taking this important step will reduce wait times for everyone. Many people have been in the frustrating position of waiting in line for a single-stall restroom while the restroom designated for the other gender sits empty. In establishments that have two single-user restrooms, making those restrooms inclusive of all genders will double the options for everyone. This proposal will also make single-user restrooms more accessible to parents with a young child of a different gender as well as people with disabilities who have an attendant of another gender.

This proposal will also make single-user restrooms safer and more welcoming for many gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people. People who do not fit traditional ideas of gender are often harassed or even assaulted simply for being in what other people incorrectly assume is the "wrong" restroom. Many gender nonconforming people are seen as both too feminine for the men's room and too masculine for the women's room. Adopting this proposal would help many people avoid that kind of harassment by increasing access to gender neutral restrooms for those who need them.

Additionally, as more and more local governments around the country enact policies like this one, the International Code Council risks being unresponsive to the public welfare, which could undermine the ICC's broader purpose of providing a model code for state governments that reflects the current best practices in construction and public accommodations. There is simply no reason that single-user restrooms should be labeled by sex. Please vote yes on P 43-15.