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I oppose this bill, along with all of the other bills proposed that would take rights and protections away from transgender people. I feel this particular bill to be the most egregious though since it basically says that it should be okay to discriminate against someone based on their gender identity. As if trans people didn't have enough to deal with between dysphoria, oftentimes self-hatred, and dealing with hate and fear from members of the public, if this bill were passed, they would then have to deal with even more vulnerability to discrimination and harassment because they would no longer have legal protections.

No one chooses to be trans; they simply feel like they are living in the wrong body. Some people are born this way and some don't begin to feel it until later in life. Until you know someone who feels this way or you feel this way yourself, you can never understand what they go through. And without understanding, it's easy to feel disgust and fear because you know nothing about them and it goes against the status quo and how people historically presented themselves as just the gender they were born with (because they probably would've been killed or jailed back in the old days if they had deviated from that).

I have someone close to me who is trans and they suffer everyday because they feel like they are in the wrong body and they don't feel comfortable expressing to the outside world the gender that they really feel they are. And who can blame them, with all the hate being directed at trans people in today's world? They would literally be risking their own safety to dress the way they want or to begin the transition process, not to mention the risk of alienating their family and friends who may not be able to get past the change. Because of this, they suffer severe depression and self-loathing and I worry about the risk of them taking their own life. Imagine also being a transgender youth who feels this way and has to deal with kids in school, where bullying is already bad enough without adding this dimension to it.

Bills like this send the message to trans people that not only are they right in hating themselves, the rest of the world hates them too and that it's okay to treat them differently. I wish the people who proposed this bill and the people who support this ideology could live one day in the life of a trans person or someone who is close to a trans person. Maybe then we could get past this shamefulness.