

Merideth Norris
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LD 1328

Dear Senator Curry, Representative Curry, and Member of the Housing and Economic Development Committee:

My name is Dr. Merideth C Norris and I am writing in support of this bill. I am writing as a physician who is board certified in addiction medicine and as a mother to a transgender child and a lesbian daughter.

Whether I was directing a recovery center or treating patients in recovery at my office, my patients encountered stigma. From neighboring businesses, from people in the community, from companies which would tow their cars from our parking lot because they were not welcome. It was a constant challenge to create a safe healing space in this environment.

My daughter, a beautiful girl whose spirit is a light in the darkness, was called "disgusting" by classmates in high school because of her sexual orientation. My youngest child, who graduated with a 4.0 and many awards, was targeted by name during a meeting of anti-trans adults, essentially putting a target on their back.

Now imagine being on the receiving end of both kinds of bias. Of having to face anti-recovery sentiment and anti-Queer sentiment. It's scary. It's isolating. This is why this bill is so very important, in order to protect Mainers with several kinds of vulnerability and set them up for success in sobriety.

Thank you for your support of this bill.