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I am Rev. Marty Pelham, an ordained minister living in Camden.

As an ordained minister, I believe that we are all created by a loving God, who fashions each of us each as unique individuals and loves us equally. This bill intentionally equates sex and gender as being the same and this has never been true. The male/female gender binary has been imposed on many cultures, including many of the indigenous cultures present on this continent when the Europeans invaded, based on the Christian Doctrine of Discovery. Each child has inherent worth and dignity conferred by their Creator. This includes their awareness of their gender. We claim to believe in this society that all people are created equal and are endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. If we believe this, then we believe it for transpeople as much as for everyone else. There is zero evidence that trans people pose any danger for any member of our society. While parents should appropriately play a decisive role in medical decisions for their children, every individual has a right to bodily autonomy. This bill ought NOT to pass.