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I am a clinical psychologist with decades of mental health experience, and I am the mother of an adult trans kid. As a professional and as a mother, I ask you to reject the anti-trans bills in front of you.

You may struggle to understand why someone who enters the world with external genitalia that signify they are one gender and who is socialized to perform as that gender ultimately chooses to identify publicly as the opposite gender. Why would someone subject themselves to public ridicule, ostracism from peers, physical danger? They must be crazy! Right? Wrong.

Transgender folks are not mentally ill. To the contrary, it takes a great deal of psychological strength to recognize that one is transgender and to live fully in that identity. The American Psychological Association, the American Psychiatric Association, and the American Medical Association all recognize the need to allow trans folks to identify as their chosen gender.

The anti-trans movement is fueled by cynical folks from Project 2025 who are using this vulnerable group to reach their own power-hungry ends. They don't care about trans folks, and they don't care about cisgender girls; they want power.

Please, meet my trans kid. My kid is kind and hilarious and has a 4.0 gpa as a STEM major at a top national university. They are researching issues in quantum physics, but they are also researching how to move abroad as soon as they can so they can be safe. Many countries are courting kids like mine.

You likely won't hear from many trans kids in your hearing, and you won't hear from many parents of trans kids - because they are all scared. They wonder... if you meet them, what will you do?

(Please ref. Rep. Laurel Libby if you wonder why you haven't heard from more trans folks.)

Only two trans girls are participating in sports. They deserve to feel included and supported and to compete with other girls.

Please, support our trans Mainers.