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Renee DeSorbo
85 Main St., STE 6
Kennebunk ME 04043
(207) 650-4528

To whom it may concern,

My name is Renée DeSorbo and I am the owner and operator of Honey Bee Electrolysis. I have been providing gender affirming care for over the past 10 years in the state of Maine. My specialties include helping women with PCOS, hormonal imbalances, hirsutism, and women who are preparing for bottom surgery (also known as vaginoplasty while in the process of transitioning from male to female), permanently remove unwanted hair.

I have learned so much about myself and about women while doing this important work. I have helped women with insecurities and deal with the daily pressures of our society. Feelings of not being feminine enough or pretty enough because of how much hair they have growing on their face and needing to shave and pluck everyday. Women who are born cisgendered often struggle with similar pains as transgender women. I have so much admiration and heart for the strength that transgender women need to have to go through all of the things they endure during the long painful process of transitioning. I have unfortunately lost clients during this process to suicide. It breaks my heart that they must deal with the scrutiny of their choice from society and multiple painful stereotypes all stemming from being misunderstood. Transgender women are just as much a woman as any other woman, and I wish our medical care system would normalize transitioning under the umbrella of hormonal imbalances. I've heard countless stories of lives being changed for the better once they are able to be themselves in their body. Feeling safe in their skin is a whole other subject. I have learned how blessed I am to be born with genitalia that I identify with and to have genitalia that is able to perform the things that I would like it to do for example having children and being able to give birth. Sometimes many of us take these things for granted.

Historically, the United States has not treated minorities well, whether we were enslaving them when we first founded this country, treating them unfairly, not giving them equal rights or blaming them for things that we just didn't understand. I feel like we're in one of these historical moments again where a lot of the individuals in our country are making a very large mistake. We are hurting a small group of people who

are already hurting to begin with. I really hope that you open your hearts and learn the facts and discover all of the amazing new science and medical advancements that are teaching us so much more more about gender that that we never knew before.

I have also had the privilege of meeting people who were born intersexed, and what that experience is like and having the ability to decide for yourself if you identify as male or female or intersex and being able to have the power of taking care of your own body. Everybody's body is different. It is important that we protect the rights to our own bodies and to be able to take care of ourselves as we see fit. There's so much here to learn that will help strengthen all of us to feel better in our own skin. I really feel like transgender women are a special part of our society that should be celebrated.

I love my clients, I love my work. Please don't hurt innocent people and for God sake please don't hurt children. Transgender girls are just as insecure as any other little girl and telling them they can't play sports is horrendous. Take the time to learn the real facts. I really hope that you have a legitimate doctor who can explain to you what taking hormone replacement therapy does to your body so that you can understand that transgender children are very much the gender that they identify with. There are a lot of stereotypes about transitioning that we need to overcome. Nothing in this world is black or white. There is beauty in our differences. Please find it in your heart to learn more about transitioning. Please take the time to learn and understand and embrace your fellow Americans and your fellow Mainer your neighbors and more importantly, protect your most vulnerable children. Transgender little girls need love and respect too. Let them play. Let all girls play. Let's stop hurting one another and become something better.

Thank you for your time. I hope your heart expands during this process and you see the importance of equality for all women.

Sincerely,
Renee DeSorbo