

Aurora Burmeister
Ellsworth
LD 1432

I have been deeply involved in LGBTQ rights for almost 10 years of my life. I have been organizing events and fundraisers for LGBTQ events in the Ellsworth area since I started high school in 2016. I am now 23, getting my Masters degree in American Culture Studies and popular culture. I teach a class that focuses heavily on gender and representations in the media. I am appalled at the bill that will strip any human being of any rights, but especially our LGBTQ community who is in need of protection the most right now. Gender identity is a loaded phrase these days, and people associate it only with transgender individuals. This is a false notion, EVERYONE has a gender identity. If you choose to present your gender by wearing a suit, or a flannel and a baseball hat, you are presenting your gender the way you want! Everyone should have that right. More importantly, everyone should have the right to not be discriminated against because of they way they present their gender! Removing protections for people based on gender identity will hurt EVERYONE, not just the targeted group of trans people. They deserve rights too, and this bill opens up opportunities for many more to be hurt.