

To Whom It Concerns:
I am opposed to LD227

I would like to tell you this true story is about a little girl named Angela.

Angela was a bright, creative, imaginative child .

When Angela would fantasize and play pretend roles, she would become that character. If Angela was pretending to be a cat or a dog, she did stuff like rub up on things, lick, purr or bark and crawl around on all fours. It was fun to pretend when it was appropriate to pretend, but it never went beyond pretending.

When Angela was 3 years old her father left the family. Her parents went through a bitter, nasty divorce. Angela was even homeless for a period of time. Angela's father eventually moved in with another woman who had two boys and a girl. Angela was traumatized by these circumstances that turned her world upside down and were outside of her control.

Angela became fascinated with being a boy. Her babydoll became a boy named Danny, but really Angela wished she was the boy named Danny.

Why did little Angela imagine that life would be better as a boy? Angela believed her daddy left and went to be with the other family because he wanted a boy, and in her little 5 year old imagination, she thought if she were a boy, her daddy would love her, and her daddy wouldn't have left.

Thank God Angela was not born in a time where there was such a thing as gender affirmation. Because the hard truth is it didn't matter what Angela was, her daddy left because of him not her. Angela didn't need to be a boy, she needed her daddy to make her feel loved and accepted for the bright, creative, imaginative child that God made her to be.

When Angela was 17, she gave birth to her own little girl, and while still in the hospital, her father took the opportunity to reach out to begin a relationship. It wasn't perfect but, along with a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, she began to heal. Nothing she could do on the outside could fix what was wrong on the inside.

If Angela were born today, and she was a traumatized, confused, broken hearted little kindergartener believing in her own imagination that her daddy would love her and not have left her, if she were only a boy, especially if this bill passes, Angela would become Danny; the little boy that she created in her own mind. And 40 years later, I would not be a mother of two amazing children and the grandmother of three.

If you truly care about the children, you would be making every effort to make them feel lovable and acceptable the way that they are created. Allowing them to believe that they're not good enough the way that they are is abuse.