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I am testifying in opposition to this bill.

Trans kids are not the enemy. I am a woman who is not trans and I have never once in my life felt threatened or scared of a trans person. Also, chill out with the fear tactics. I could say that I have felt threatened by cisgender men far more times than I have felt threatened by trans people, and that would be true, but there's no point in creating enemies out of each other.

I am not sure if I fully understand the motivation behind this bill, unless its purpose is to single out trans kids and prevent them from being seen and treated the way they want to be treated by their classmates and teachers. Preventing kids from being able to be who they are will only put trans and queer kids at higher risks of bullying, mental health challenges, and even suicide. For that reason, I see this as an extremely dangerous bill. All of us have a right to be who we are. We do not bother anybody when we fully inhabit ourselves. We only make the world a little brighter and that is a wonderful thing. People change their names all the time, both legally and informally, to embrace a favorite nickname, to embrace an identity, to appear before the world as their true self. So many Williams go by Bill, so many Katherines go by Katie. People go by their middle name. However, apparently it's only an issue when people subvert the gender dichotomy in slightly more rebellious ways, and for some reason conservatives have decided that allowing people, especially kids, to pick a name that better represents who they are, is a dangerous thing to do.

If that is the case, I dare you all to call yourselves and every person in their life only by their legal name. If you are a man with long hair, shave it and grow a beard. If you are a woman with short hair or a woman who likes to wear pants sometimes, grow that hair out and put on a dress. Let's all constrict ourselves to severe, confining expressions of gender norms according to a legally-determined cultural standard. That sounds like the America we all want to live in, right?

Please stop being obtuse and vote against this bill.