



Kansas Statewide Transgender Education Project
*Ending Discrimination Against Transgender Kansans
And Their Families Through Education*

Good morning. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Stephanie Mott. I am the executive director of Kansas Statewide Transgender Education Project. I begin by quoting US Attorney General Lynch, in her remarks¹ about the discriminatory law recently passed in North Carolina.

“What we must not do – what we must never do – is turn on our neighbors, our family members, our fellow Americans, for something they cannot control, and deny what makes them human. This is why none of us can stand by when a state enters the business of legislating identity and insists that a person pretend to be something they are not . . .”

She also said,

“Instead, what this law does is inflict further indignity on a population that has already suffered far more than its fair share. This law provides no benefit to society – all it does is harm innocent Americans.”

These regulations provide no benefit. All they do is harm innocent Kansans. They also deny the science regarding transgender identity recognized by every major medical and mental health organization in the world. And I quote:

. . . these individuals often experience discrimination due to a lack of civil rights protections for their gender identity or expression...

The American Psychiatric Association:

1. Supports laws that protect the civil rights of transgender and gender variant individuals.
2. Urges the repeal of laws and policies that discriminate against transgender . . . individuals.
3. Opposes all public and private discrimination against transgender . . . individuals in such areas as health care, employment, housing, public accommodation, education, and licensing.
4. Declares that no burden of proof . . . shall be placed upon these individuals greater than that imposed on any other persons.

These organizations also include the American Medical Association, American Psychological Association, American Academy of Family Physicians, and World Professional Association for Transgender Health.²

There is only one truth here. These regulations will result in the deaths of multiple transgender teenagers in Kansas. Children . . . Will . . . Die.

Parents of transgender teens will come home to the lifeless bodies of their children, hanging by a necktie in the same closet in which these regulations force them to live.

A 2014 study³ by The Williams Institute says 41% of transgender Americans have attempted suicide. When their identity is validated, this number falls to 33%. When invalidated, the opposite is true.



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Do these regulations validate or invalidate a transgender person's identity? If these regulations increase the likelihood transgender youth will attempt suicide, and they do, why in God's green earth would we do such a thing?

Children will die and these regulations will be written in their blood.

How do I know? At the age of 12, when I perceived the impossibility of being able to live authentically, thoughts of suicide were part of my daily existence.

In 2005, I embraced myself as the woman I have always been. Thoughts of suicide went away. The struggle continues to be extraordinarily real, but the thoughts of suicide are gone.

For much of my life, I believed I was displeasing in the eyes of the Lord. Now I have a relationship with God that is more than I could ever have imagined. It is the most important thing in my life.

I have spent hours upon hours on phone calls with transgender people, in the State of Kansas, who are trying NOT to give up on life. They are searching for anything that says they have a chance of an authentic life. Anything providing an alternative message to the messages they receive each day telling them that they can't. These regulations are just one more message telling them they can't.

You don't know these things because you don't live in the world I live in. But from the world you live in, you try to legislate, regulate, the world I live in. Why? How? Do you not know that you are killing innocent children?

These regulations serve no purpose. What you are doing is trying to regulate identity, which by definition, can not be regulated. What I am doing is trying to stop another transgender child from taking their own life.

Please don't persecute these most vulnerable people. Instead, do the right thing. Protect them. Write regulations allowing them to correct misreported birth certificates. Ensure that no laws or regulations in the State of Kansas deny any citizen the right to be who they are. Create a world where transgender youth can see abundant messages that their lives ARE worth living. Make policy that does not cause children to die.

Thank you.

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References:

- ¹ <https://www.justice.gov/opa/speech/attorney-general-loretta-e-lynch-delivers-remarks-press-conference-announcing-complaint>
- ² http://www.lambdalegal.org/sites/default/files/publications/downloads/ll_trans_professional_statements.pdf
- ³ <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/AFSP-Williams-Suicide-Report-Final.pdf>