

Vote no on HSB 242

Hello my name is Kellie Bridges, I was born in Iowa and I'd like to tell you to vote no on HSB 242.

I want to tell you about my sister in law. She was born intersex. When she was born she had partial sets of both sex organs. Her parents wanted a boy, so she was assigned male at birth.

As she grew up she realized that she didn't feel like a boy. She felt like a girl. She didn't even know that she had been born intersex until later in life but since she was raised as a boy, and given a boy's name. This made her struggle with suicidal ideation throughout her adolescent and teen years. She had to fight to gain access to HRT which took years and was a fight every step of the way but she got them, and life started to get better for her.

Because she got HRT she survived. She made friends who accepted she was a girl, she got married.

For her job she is a non-emergency medical transportation. She takes those who cannot take themselves, to their appointments and home safely. But she is someone who goes above and beyond in everything she does. She gets out and helps the elderly get up and down stairs safely.

Last year she was nominated for the title of the best non-emergency transport in the entire state of Iowa not only because she performs her duties with excellence but because who she is, where she is, she expanded this crucial service to an incredibly underserved area of the state so that the people in the area of her community who need medical transport not only get it, but are on time, never forgotten, and treated with courtesy, dignity and respect.

She was someone who never got a chance to have a say on what was on her birth certificate. She barely survived into adulthood because these overwhelming feelings of who she was not matching up with what society expected her to be on the outside were so overwhelming she felt she wanted to die. When she was allowed to transition, life is not only survivable but she is able to thrive to the point that she is an undeniable credit to her community, to her family, to her friends.

She is unable to be here right now, as her rights to identify herself as who she really is, are under attack because she is out there, right now, serving her community and making sure that someone's grandmother, or special needs child are getting the crucial healthcare they deserve, safely, on time, without fail, five days a week.

These people are not out to hurt anyone, in fact they are more likely to be the victim of a violent crime than ever commit one. They are normal people who just want to go to the grocery store without living in fear.

Being trans is not a disorder. These people are normal functioning members of society if we just leave them alone.

I'd like to conclude by saying Acts like HSB 242 are regressive and ignorant and will do absolutely nothing to help anyone, they will only do harm to every single trans lowan and every life they touch. There are zero benefits to speak of, someone's gender expression has never and will never be a threat to anyone ever. It will only take away my sister's access to her basic civil rights and further try to erase trans individuals from being themselves in the state of Iowa.

These are our brothers and sisters, they are our medical transportation, they are doctors, they are librarians running after school programs encouraging reading. They are your check out clerk at the gas station. These are members of our community, these are every day lowans that the federal government has already turned their back on.

Are we going to deny them their basic civil rights protections? Is Iowa going to turn it's own hard working people?

That's not the Iowa that I want my home to be. Not a state denies its people through erasure, revoking of rights and fear.

Reject HSB 242. It has no place in the proud State of Iowa.