

Dear Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am here today in Concord for the 3rd week in a row to oppose HB377- because trans, intersex and gender non conforming kids and adults are under attack here in NH.

My name is Rosie Emrich and I am parent of an 8yo trans child. I spent a lot of time this weekend thinking about my testimony. I'm not entirely confident that what I, or anyone else, says here today is going to change any minds. I hope that you all will be reading all of the studies cited, studying the statistics given, considering what is actually important to the constituents you serve based on those who have signed in with their support or opposition to this bill (when I looked Sunday night, it was at about 1000 in opposition and 65 in support) and painstakingly making a decision, but our current political climate does not leave me very hopeful. The research is widely available, the statistics are not top secret. And so, given that, what do I actually want you to say to you all today.

I want to say that I am tired. I'm tired of having to come here every week and sit in this room for hours and listen to people who have never REALLY taken the time to get to know a trans child or adult, make accusations about what kind of parent I am, what type of person my child, or any other trans person is, and what is best for them.

I am scared. I don't know if you've read the news recently, but a trans man was tortured and murdered recently in Ohio. People are getting fired from federal positions for supporting trans folx and from the military for being trans. Iowa became the first state to roll back protections and say that discrimination against trans folx is okay. DHS now allows surveillance based on gender identity or sexuality. The Montana House just passed an indecent exposure bill applying only to trans people. I am scared that this state that I love and have grown up in will not be a safe place for our family anymore. I am scared that my child won't be able to easily get the medical care they need. I am scared to let my child use the bathroom in public. I am scared for my child and for all of the amazing children and adults whose lives will be made unnecessarily hard.

My child's journey is theirs and theirs alone. Contrary to the testimony I read on-line, I did not force my child into this, why would I?! Why would I want to subject them to THIS! They didn't choose this, I didn't choose this, nobody else compelled or influenced them into this. What I did was listen and pay attention. I listened to what they started telling me from the time they first started speaking sentences and I continue to listen, everyday! And if they said Mom, I was wrong, and I want to go back, I would be the first one to affirm that too. I love my children with everything in me and it is me and my child, in collaboration with their trained medical providers with years of professional experience, who should be making their medical decisions.

So I am here today, even though it feels like it's not accomplishing anything and I don't think some of you will hear my plea. I am here today because I am doing EVERYTHING in my power to build my child a world where they know I will always fight for them, even if I'm bailing out the entire ocean from a sinking ship with a teaspoon- I will ALWAYS listen and love them when they tell me who they are and I will fight for them.

Despite all of this hardship right now, my trans child has given our family a wonderful gift. We are all more comfortable in our skins, more confident in the ways in which we don't meet the impossible standards of femininity or masculinity, we are more understanding and compassionate, we are more willing to seek to understand, we are fiercer and more likely to stand with those being marginalized, and mostly we have more love because we have created an amazing community and family for ourselves.

If you are truly looking to understand the painstaking journey of parenting a trans child, I recommend "One Day I'll Grow Up and Be a Beautiful Woman: A Mother's Story" by Abi Maxwell. She tells the story of her trans child's early journey right here in NH.

Thank you,

Rosie Emrich  
Hooksett, NH

Among 13-17 year olds, two years after an anti trans law took effect, the likelihood of a past-year suicide attempt was 72% higher than it was before passage.

[https://www.nature.com/articles/s41562-024-01979-5.epdf?sharing\\_token=EbX7LsH7-AF5n99850vpnNRgN0jAjWel9jnR3ZoTv0PNveFIXHsicugelq3jvg1Wcsju1CXHxspC9onbX6frEcU1-J5M25MI5piLTNjBr959LGK7ejPr20VtTVSb18ArMIJnGNGgZYyU9CJQoJuUjN01H4VVGludqO\\_epnWlg\\_A%3D](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41562-024-01979-5.epdf?sharing_token=EbX7LsH7-AF5n99850vpnNRgN0jAjWel9jnR3ZoTv0PNveFIXHsicugelq3jvg1Wcsju1CXHxspC9onbX6frEcU1-J5M25MI5piLTNjBr959LGK7ejPr20VtTVSb18ArMIJnGNGgZYyU9CJQoJuUjN01H4VVGludqO_epnWlg_A%3D)