

10 year old transgender non-binary child from Western Slope, name withheld for pr

It's important to me that I am able to take the medicine I need so I can be me and be happy. If this bill passes into law, then the suicide rate for transgender and non-binary people will go up by a lot. And if it passes, the people who voted for it will be responsible for kids dying.

I think that deciding whether to get medicine or not is a decision between the family, child and doctors, not lawmakers. Having lawmakers say whether you can take the medicine you need is like a rooster deciding if dogs should eat food. It makes no sense. If the law passes, then our family will have to move to another state, and I will have to leave all my friends I've made at my new school. That would make me feel terrible.

When I was littler I used to say it felt like somebody was pushing down on my head. But when I could be myself, the pushing wasn't there anymore. If this bill becomes law, I won't just feel something pushing on my head, it will be pushing on my entire body, and I wouldn't be able to hold all of the pushing. I don't know what I would do. I would probably just want to watch TV in my room all day. So, if transgender and non-binary kids are all sad watching TV in our bedrooms, *or worse*, we can't help solve really important problems like climate change.

Grown ups like to tell kids we can be anything we want to be, but that is getting harder all the time for transgender and nonbinary people. The Trump administration has already decided I can't serve my awesome country in the military - and I'm not even out of elementary school! If HB 20-1114 becomes law, it would destroy the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for everybody.

Mother of transgender non-binary 10 year old from Western Slope, name withheld for privacy

When our child was in first grade, we were really worried about them. They were anxious and prone to bouts of depression and anger, and we didn't know why. They'd literally put a blanket over their head at parties and often would go straight to bed after school. We now recognize they were suffering from gender dysphoria.

When we first started to allow our child to wear the clothes and hairstyle they found comfortable, and began to speak about our child using words they requested, they were overjoyed. The day they got a "boys haircut"; they literally skipped down the sidewalk, their smile beaming. We called it gender euphoria - the deep

inner peace that arises when a transgender person gets to live in the world as who they know themselves to be. This is what it can look like when gender dysphoria is treated using age-appropriate affirming approaches recommended by the mainstream medical and mental health community.

At this point, four years after their social transition and after switching schools due to intense bullying, our child has become a well-adjusted, confident kid. They have served on student council for three years in a row where they recently led a school kindness campaign. They organized friends to raise hundreds of dollars for abused animals. Just this month, they approached their school cafeteria staff with a plan for meatless Mondays out of concern for the climate crisis. We are proud of our child's caring leadership. We know it would not be possible if they were still burdened by untreated gender dysphoria.

My husband and I are currently working closely with our child's pediatrician, mental health therapist and specialists at Denver Children's Hospital to determine if and when medical treatment may be necessary to help our kiddo remain happy and healthy as they grow up. Just knowing that treatment options such as puberty blockers are available helps our child manage their dysphoria as puberty approaches. Considering medical treatment is not an easy decision for our family. Like any medical decision, there are risks and benefits to be carefully weighed. This is a difficult, very personal and private decision between us, our child and our healthcare team.

We know our child has a purpose to fulfill in this world. Our job as parents is to keep them healthy and whole so they can fulfill it. Please allow us that right and vote HB 20-1114 down today.