



President Trump and Vice President Pence,

We are the parents of transgender children from across the United States, representing various races and ethnicities, socioeconomic backgrounds, and faith communities. We write to express our outrage and deep concern over the Trump-Pence Administration's proposal to legally define sex as either male or female, unchangeable and based on unscientifically narrow criteria. This is the latest cruel attempt in a long line of attacks to diminish the existence and humanity of our children and to dismantle their basic human and civil rights. **We want to make this very clear -- when our children are under attack, we will fight like hell to protect them.**

As parents, all we want is for our children to be safe, healthy, and fulfilled. Our children have our unconditional love, and many have the support of a loving community of friends, peers, teachers, coaches, and other allies. Sadly, however, our children also face ostracization and discrimination in far too many places. We fear every day that our children will encounter bullies -- but we never imagined that the most threatening bullies would be in the White House.

President Trump and Vice President Pence, this is a dangerous time for transgender and non-binary people in our country. We see an increase in hate speech and violence perpetrated against transgender people, particularly transgender women of color. And we see politicians like yourself sow hate and fear against our children and transgender people across our country, making them nothing more than a convenient target for your cynical, misguided agenda. It is your role to protect our children, not to erase them from civil rights laws.

As parents of transgender youth, we have seen firsthand some of the heartbreaking challenges faced by kids like our own in every corner of the country. We have seen the bullying, the threats, and the dangerous animosity of certain community and school leaders.

National surveys bear out our children's experience. While these statistics highlight these children's pride in who they are and in their community, they also reveal alarming statistics related to the harmful experiences of transgender youth in schools, the toll of discrimination and bias on their emotional well-being, and their fear for personal safety. Our children should not have to carry such a burden.

These are children who need the full support of our federal government -- particularly the agencies whose mission demands their assistance and protection. These are students who are put at real risk of daily harm -- physical, emotional, and psychological -- when legal protections are taken away.

And these are children who are vibrant young individuals, with their own particular beliefs, visions, and passions. These are children who amaze us with their courage, their kindness, their love, and their resilience. These are children who are complex, and who reflect and encompass the full diversity of our nation. And these are children who hope to achieve their own version of the American dream, and to continue to build a better country for all of us.

These children -- all children -- deserve to be treated with love, respect and acceptance. Our children cannot be reduced to a deeply flawed, debunked understanding of what makes us the people we are. Our children know who they are, and we know what they need.

For we the parents -- there is only one way forward. We will vote.

We will vote to restore decency and compassion to our Congress and to our national leadership. We will vote to secure a nation in which our children can live fully, freely, to their greatest potential. We will vote to save lives -- the lives of our children, all transgender and nonbinary people, and all vulnerable communities in our nation who your Administration views as secondary and disposable.

Your White House may hold power now, but our children hold the power of our future. This November, we are voting to protect that future, and together, we will make your hateful agenda a thing of the past.