



Dear Senator Cruz,

We write to express our deep concern over your harmful and medically unfounded comments regarding transgender and non-binary youth and the families who support them. Your comments accusing parents of transgender and non-binary children of “child abuse” betrays your office, your responsibilities and all sense of decency.

As parents of transgender and non-binary children, we’ve become all-too-familiar with the danger that can come if a child is unable to express their deeply-held gender identity. A significant body of peer-reviewed research confirms that transgender and non-binary children are at great risk of emotional harm, including suicide, if they are not able to do so. Additionally, the nation’s leading medical organizations -- the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, among others -- have made clear that access to gender-affirming care is essential to well-being.

It causes harm when we deny or reject our child’s gender identity. Our decision to seek competent gender affirming-care does not. It is irresponsible and shameful for you, or any other elected official, to make false claims that further stigmatize our children and call into question our judgment and the judgment of trained medical professionals.

Being a parent is a hard job. Every day we try to make the best decisions to help our children succeed and thrive. The established best practices for parenting a transgender or non-binary child are to accept and affirm your child’s identity and to consult with experienced healthcare providers.

Every parent has their own journey, just as every child has their own---it is not always an easy one and it is made much more difficult when our families are exploited for political gain.

If you and other politicians were truly concerned about the well-being of children, you would focus on the over five million children across this country who are living in extreme poverty or the tens of thousands exposed to physical abuse, violence and human trafficking---not transgender and non-binary children who are getting the love and support they need and deserve.