

January 5, 2018

Dear Senators,

We're writing to you as parents, because we are worried about our children. We love our children, as we know many of you love your own children and grandchildren. We love them fiercely, and sometimes we fear for them. We want to tell you about our families, and how we love and fear for our children, because of the demeaning and dangerous rhetoric used about them by certain nominees for lifetime federal judgeships. Our children are transgender, and the rhetoric of nominees Kevin Duncan and Matthew Kacsmaryk about children like ours is appalling and unacceptable.

We previously reached out to judicial nominee Jeff Mateer to express our alarm at his description of transgender children as proof of "how Satan's plan is working." We are pleased to see that Mr. Mateer and Stephen Schwartz (whose record is similar to Mr. Duncan's) have not been renominated. However, we remain equally concerned about Mr. Duncan and Mr. Kacsmaryk their demeaning attacks on transgender children and adults. Both have repeatedly promoted fringe, junk science about transgender people, claiming that gender identity doesn't exist and that being transgender is a "delusion." These bogus claims have been rejected against and again by the nation's major medical and mental health associations.

Moreover, their words are deeply offensive. Claiming that our children don't exist is scarcely better than calling them part of "Satan's plan." Our children are not a delusion, and neither is our love and support for them. We believe our children are miracles, like every child. In our letter to Mr. Mateer we wrote:

As every reputable medical and pediatric association agrees, there is nothing wrong with being transgender, and children like ours can grow and thrive if they are loved and supported, just like their peers. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, "transgender children fare much better when they feel supported by their family, school and larger community. Shaming children based on their gender identity or expression is harmful to their social-emotional health and may have lifelong consequences."

We know this to be true because we have seen it with our own eyes. We have loved and supported our children through our own initial uncertainties about what it means to be transgender, through months or years of exploring their gender identity, through countless conversations with experts and other parents, through the fear—and for some of us the reality—of bullying from our children's peers or even from adults, and through the relief and the joy of seeing our children be able to live their truth, be seen for who they are, and just be kids.

Unfortunately, we continue to fear for our children of the extreme as we see more nominees for lifetime federal judgeships with a long history of extreme and demeaning rhetoric toward anyone who is transgender, like our kids.

Hundreds of thousands of children and adolescents throughout this country are transgender, like our kids. So are well over a million adults. They deserve to be treated with respect and dignity—and to trust that when they walk into a courtroom they will be treated fairly. Confirming these nominees as federal judges would send a damaging and dangerous message that the dignity of children like ours does not count in the courts, or in the U.S. Senate.

Please, stand up for our children. Reject these nominees.

Sincerely, the undersigned

Jessica Girven	APO AE
Carol Loeb	AL
Albert Levensohn	AZ
Amy D'Arpino	AZ
Samantha Ewings	AZ
Susan Barrows	AZ
Barbara A Nasco	AZ
Chelsa Morrison	AZ
Andrew Morrison	AZ
Chris Lopez	AZ
S. Larsen	AZ
Mireille Cervelli	CA
Cristy Mereles	CA
E.M.	CA
E.V.G.	CA
Gwen Everman	CA
Felicity Jamison	CA
Jeri M.	CA
Kari Bach	CA
Sarah Paredes	CA
Margaret Schultz	CA
Randy Bauer	CA
Robyne Ruterbusch	CA
Michelle Miller	CA
Rebecca S.	CA
Bridget Mulcahey	CA
Donna Hoyt	CA
Crystal Hasinsky	CA
Krista Mcghee	CA
Elizabeth Lester	CA
Britt, California	CA

Mario Villarreal	CA
Jocelyn P.	CA
Peggy K.	CA
Sarah Markety	CA
Sara Villarreal	CA
Sarah Fregulia	CA
E. August	CA
Janna Barkin	CA
Keith Foy	CA
Dianna Mitzner	CA
Melanie McPherson	CA
Susan Thronson	CA
Nicki Bauer	CA
Turner	CA
Jill Clark	CA
Amy Muller	CO
Susan Wilcox	CO
Tanya	CO
Megan and Todd D.	CO
Amanda Peters	CT
George Witkiewicz	CT
Maria Nieves	CT
Jennifer Poulsen	CT
Joan States	CT
Leslie Carman	CT
Lori Woehrle	DC
M Brennan	DC
Doreen Cunningham	DC
E Silva	DC
D.A.	DC
Elle VanDyne	DC
Mom of 2 twins	DE
DeShanna Neal	DE
Cynthia Zdrojewski	DE
TJ Sheldon	DE
Amy M.	DE
Silvia R.B.	FL
Heather Renee	FL
Jennifer Dante	FL
Paul	FL
Shawn R.	FL

Florida	FL
Belinda C.	GA
Gloria M.	GA
Jennifer	GA
Darcy L.	GA
Kelly McAfee	GA
Darby K.	GA
Marie	GA
G.M.	GA
Dina Wenyworth	GA
Ann Seggerman	IA
Jennifer Hartman	IA
Shannon Mahoney	ID
Tina Baily	ID
Brenda Schweda	IL
B.C.	IL
E.S.K.	IL
Donna G.	IL
Hallie Gordon	IL
Jennifer M.	IL
Laura Nysten	IL
Kristina Carlson	IL
Kathy King-Watters	IL
Marcy Formigoni	IL
Terry Perez	IL
Molly Kay	IL
Natasha S.	IL
Teresa Furham	IL
Winifred Curran	IL
Wendy	IL
Chrystie Ortega	IL
Alice Collins	IL
Alex G.	IL
Elizabeth K. Rosso	IL
Elease C.	IL
Evaleen Catrambone	IL
Candace Fehrenbacher	IL
F. Norl	IL
J.M.	IL
Joel Schmerler	IL
Lisa Santiago	IL

Amy Braman	IL
Mary Day	IL
Mary Perez	IL
Michael F. Welninski	IL
Amy L. Parker	IL
Sarah Langley	IL
Samantha Nelson	IL
Patrick G.	IL
Chris	IL
Laurie Nelson	IL
Robert Sullivan	IL
Susan Sullivan	IL
Kimberly Hannon	IN
Loving Parent	IN
Laura Weyburg	IN
Debbie Kellogg,	KS
Cassandra Peters	KS
Iris Gladstone	KY
Ann Dragsbaek	MA
Linda Healy	MA
Jennifer	MA
Kitty Flynn	MA
Katherine J	MA
Vanessa Ford	MA
John	MA
Massachusetts	MA
B. Maynard	MA
Lonnie Chu	MA
Sara Hunter	MA
G McManus	MA
Sabrina R.	MA
AJ Hoffman	MA
Laurie	MA
Mimi Lemay	MA
Maryland Parent	MD
Julia Dubner	MD
Karen McLaren	MD
Jane D.	MD
Lionel	MD
Lynn Brennan	MD
Mark Roberts	MD

Nicola van Kuilenburg	MD
Julie Greenstein	MD
Sarah Watson	MD
Sabrina R. Smith	MD
Brian Watson	MD
Worried Mom	MD
Joy Christakis	MD
C. Sullivan	MD
Sam	MD
Sarah Watson	MD
Wendy F.	MD
Nissa Thurman Quill	MD
Christine Lillard	MD
Jaime Moore-Atkinson	ME
Jennifer Robinson	MI
Sarah J. Tchoryk	MI
Wendie Dillehay	MI
Kathrine M. Kraft	MI
Krista K. Anderson	MI
Mary Benson	MI
Mary OBrien	MI
Honoure Stark	MI
Lela U.	MI
M.S.K.	MI
Stubby Golob	MI
Peter Tchoryk	MI
Becky OKeefe	MN
Carolyn Geis	MN
Alison Morris	MN
Kay	MN
Dawn Acero	MN
Hannah Edwards	MN
S.R.M.	MN
Jill Boogren	MN
Jennifer Berryman	MN
Julie	MN
Pam Robbins	MN
Shawna Hoepfner	MN
Ann Simmons	MN
CJ Lans	MO
Jessie Shirrell	MO

Mayumi Jones	MO
Amber Gilleylen	MO
Vicki Chaffin	MO
Allan Riddel	MO
Nancy Riddel	MO
Kelly Sparrow	MO
Debi Jackson	MO
Tom Jackson	MO
E.Lowe	MT
Michelle Sanchez	MT
Kathryn Smith	MT
Deborah Gilgor	NC
Jessica Randolph	NC
Katie Jenifer	NC
Karen G.	NC
Ashley N.	NC
Rev. Nanette de Andrade	NC
Leslie Cohen	NC
Rebecca C.	NC
Britt Cloudsdale	NC
J. Duwve	NC
J.P.	NC
Rebecca Nelson	NC
Christine Shaffer	NC
Kris	NE
Jan Heirtzler	NH
Diana George	NH
B. Marrocco	NH
Julia Gabs	NH
Adrienne Stevens	NJ
Coleen Sullivan	NJ
Kalpana Sheth	NJ
Madhu Sheth	NJ
Jamie Bruesehoff	NJ
Rev. Christopher Bruesehoff	NJ
Michele Mazakas	NJ
Concerned parent	NJ
Laurie McLaughlin	NJ
Courtney Rodarte	NV
James Blake	NV
Gayl	NV

L. Pheglel	NV
Brenda Marworth	NY
Susan Connelly	NY
Bobbi M. Bittker	NY
Emily Kettling Grote	NY
Francesca Vitali	NY
Jess D.	NY
Joy Southern	NY
Mara Fojas	NY
Rebecca Martin	NY
Kathryn Fox	NY
Georgi Persons	OH
Melissa McLaren	OH
Anne R.	OH
Barbara Spear	OH
Dana Johnson	OH
Rose Wendt	OH
Melissa Stone	OH
Phil R.	OH
Jaime S.	OH
Eddie S	OH
Kimberly Diana Chambers	OH
Melissa Marie	OH
Dena Philips	OR
Jean Horn	OR
Holly Bartell	OR
Christopher Yeager	OR
Colleen Yeager	OR
Jennifer Schumacher	OR
April	PA
McDaniels	PA
Katherine R	PA
Melissa DeStefano	PA
Nicole H.	PA
Suzy McCollum	PA
Kristin Callowyn	PA
Kristin Lesho	PA
Lucas M. Miller	PA
Jennifer Smith	PA
Nicole M.	PA
Paulette Hakes	PA

Laurie A.	SC
Rafael Martin-Navas	SC
Rebecca Brock	TN
Crystal Yamazaki	TN
Dawn Bennett	TN
Alisa Miller	TX
Elishia Featherston	TX
Frank Gonzales	TX
Melissa Ballard	TX
Tania Vargas	TX
Tom M.	TX
Finn Hope	TX
Amber Briggie	TX
Adam Briggie	TX
John Armstrong	UT
William Robbins	UT
Rixt Luikenaar	UT
Maria Garcia	UT
Liz Matthews	VA
Lynn White	VA
M. Q. Gomez	VA
Kate Simon	VA
Susan Hayden	VA
Susanna Bedser	VA
Amanda Maddox	VA
Amy Sanders	VA
Jennifer Z.	WA
Rochelle Long	WA
Long family	WA
Signe Nelson	WA
Irene Pasternack	WA
Tiffany Kelly	WA
Embracing Hope	WI
E.J.A.	WI
Sarah Mutschlecner	WI
Anne U.	WI
Jeannine Tobias	WI
Jodi Kiffmeyer	WI