

From: Justin Bigham
Sent: Tue, 08 Jun 2021 14:19:09 +0000 (UTC)
To: T9PublicHearing
Subject: Please protect LGBTQ students!

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Hello,

My name is Justin Bigham and I'm writing in regard to the Department of Education's comprehensive review of Title IX protections and notice of proposed rulemaking.

I grew up in a very small town in Michigan, population 1,200. I ended up leaving and moving to (b)(6) when I no longer felt safe in my hometown, simply for being "different". I will soon be working with the local schools to hopefully deliver annual speeches about the power of acceptance and making anyone feel welcome. It is absolute absurdity to me that in the year 2021 we are still fighting so incredibly hard to just feel comfortable in our own skin. The move to return this country to the idea our founding fathers had about giving anyone a chance to prove their worth through hard work is a welcome embrace. My hope is that we can soon, all stand together and not wage war on each other, but on hate, discrimination, and world hunger, things that can all be avoided if we simply...smile and be kind to one another.

No transgender child should be denied access to a facility or program consistent with their gender identity, denied the opportunity to update their name or pronouns in school systems, or face unequal enforcement of dress and grooming codes — yet these instances of discrimination and others are common in schools nationwide.

Sincerely,
Justin Bigham

(b)(6)