

Roberta DiMezza

From: Julia Barber <julia.a.barber@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 4:34 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: FOR HB 6171

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Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing in support of HB 6171 and the protection of intersex Rhode Islanders. Please take care of our vulnerable children and do the same. Intersex people deserve the right to make life altering decisions about their bodies on their own terms.

I work at Youth Pride RI, a nonprofit organization that supports LGBTQ+ youth, so I see firsthand the destructive toll that ignorance and prejudice have on our children. Gender variant individuals have a dramatically higher rate of suicide, due largely to society's refusal to accept them as they are. These children should not be taught that their differences make them bad, wrong, or in need of surgical correction. We need to teach our kids that whatever shape their bodies take, they are safe and welcome here in Rhode Island.

I thank you for your time and urge your support of HB 6171.

Sincerely,
Julia Barber