

# INSIDE OUT

## YOUTH SERVICES

### **Important Resources for Trans Inclusion**

#### **Open letter to Jill Gaebler (February 26, 2021):**

[An open letter to Colorado Springs Council Member Jill Gaebler regarding recent transphobic messaging - Inside/Out Youth Services \(\[insideoutys.org\]\(http://insideoutys.org\)\)](#)

[Media links for background and facts on this issue \(Colorado Springs Indy, KRDO, & FOX21\)](#)

#### **Council Member Jill Gaebler's messaging:**

[Original Tweets with article](#) (2/15/21)

Tweet opposing the Equality Act following IOYS statement (2/24/21)



**Risks for transgender students:**

Sources: [National School Climate Survey 2019](#), [Healthy Kids Colorado Survey Data | Department of Public Health & Environment](#), [Social Determinants of Health Equity \(CDPHE\)](#), [Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance — Unites States, 2017 \(cdc.gov\)](#)

**Council Member Gaebler mentions locker room safety, therefore we need to reiterate the profound disparities of locker room and bathroom bullying right here in El Paso County.**

- 70% of transgender students report being teased at school while 3% of cisgender students report being teased at school *because of their gender*
- 35.9% of transgender students report being bullied in locker rooms and bathrooms, compared to 18.8% of cisgender students
- **LGBTQ+ youth have the highest health disparities of all youth in El Paso county.** In 2019, 34.6% of transgender students in El Paso county attempted suicide compared to 6.27% of cisgender students.
  - **Stigmatization and discrimination increase suicide risk, and rates of bullying and violence demonstrate the continual lack of safety for transgender and gender diverse youth.** We must engage the most vulnerable—LGBTQ+ children, youth, and young adults, especially young people of color—in meaningful, inclusive participation in their schools and **communities**.

**Council Member Gaebler argues that transgender girls shouldn't be allowed to play sports with their peers.**

- **“A person’s genetic make-up and internal and external reproductive anatomy are not useful indicators of athletic performance,”** according to Dr. Joshua D. Safer. “For a trans woman athlete who meets [NCAA standards](#), “there is no inherent reason why her physiological characteristics related to athletic performance should be treated differently from the physiological characteristics of a non-transgender woman.”
- **A trans high school student, for example, may experience detrimental effects to their physical and emotional wellbeing when they are pushed out of affirming spaces and communities.**
- According to Dr. Adkins, “When a school or athletic organization denies transgender students the ability to [participate equally](#) in athletics because they are transgender, that condones, reinforces, and affirms the transgender students’ social status as outsiders or misfits who deserve the hostility they experience from peers.”

Social Media Banner for Allied Organizations

**We stand with Inside Out Youth Services to welcome  
and honor trans people in our community.**

**We are an affirming and supportive  
organization for trans people.**

**INSIDE OUT**  
YOUTH SERVICES

#endtransphobia #protecttranskids #transrightsarehumanrights #translivesmatter #costranslivesmatter  
#noplacforhate #equalityact #ioys #insideoutyouthservices #lgbtyouth #lgbtqyouth #transyouth

## **Exemplar Letter of Support**

The League of Women Voters of the Pikes Peak Region

[March 1, 2021 Newsletter](#)

### LWVPPR Statement on Recent Remarks by Council Member Jill Gaebler

League of Women Voters of the Pikes Peak Region stands with Inside Out Youth Services and other allies in support of transgender youth and adults.

A recent transphobic comment made by Colorado Springs City Council Member Jill Gaebler on social media comes as a disappointment from someone elected to advocate for all members of our community. Gaebler's comment encourages intolerance and discrimination and contributes to a threatening atmosphere for the transgender community which is already subjected to hate crimes and identity-based violence.

LWV believes in equal protections under the law and that includes equal rights, regardless of gender or sexual identity, for all, in sports, employment, education, housing, healthcare and access to services.

League of Women Voters has not always stood "on the right side of history" when it comes to inclusiveness and equity. We are striving to do better and we encourage Council Member Gaebler to do the same. To begin, read the open letter to Council Member Gaebler shared by Inside Out Youth Services. Learn how to be a better ally with these resources from the National Center for Transgender Equality.

[An-open-letter-to-Colorado-Springs-Council-Member-Jill-Gaebler-regarding-recent-transphobic-messaging.pdf \(insideoutys.org\)](#)

[National Center for Transgender Equality \(transequality.org\)](#)

[Ally-Guide-July-2016\\_0.pdf \(transequality.org\)](#)

## Letter from Ollie, an Inside Out Youth, to Jill Gaebler

Dear Council Member Jill Gaebler,

My name is Ollie and I am a senior at Air Academy High School. I also happen to be trans. I genuinely appreciate what you have done with your environmental work and I agree with you on so many issues.

I am writing you today because I feel upset about how someone who has been very progressive and supportive of our community is standing up and attacking my trans sisters. As a trans masculine person I find it really hurtful because a lot of what is said about trans people, regardless of assigned gender at birth, shapes peoples views and often leads to us being socially and systemically discriminated against.

I know you said that the Equality Act erodes rights for women and girls, but it doesn't erode anyone's rights for me to get access to health care. Just because someone is transgender doesn't mean they are violent. In fact, they are more likely to have violence perpetrated against them.

Even if you think it's just words or just your views it is shaping other people's views around you. You hold a platform of power and you are one of our council people and that is pretty harmful. It also enables people to feel emboldened to harm trans people. We have actual evidence and statistics of the harm of this type of rhetoric:

### [According to the National Transgender Discrimination Survey:](#)

"A staggering 41% of respondents reported attempting suicide compared to 1.6% of the general population, with rates rising for those who lost a job due to bias (55%), were harassed/bullied in school (51%), had low household income, or were the victim of physical assault (61%) or sexual assault (64%)."

### [According to Western State Regional Report including Colorado:](#)

"Those who expressed a transgender identity or gender non-conformity while in grades K-12 reported alarming rates of harassment (74%), physical assault (36%) and sexual violence (12%) Harassment was so severe that it led 17% to leave a school in K-12 settings or leave higher education..."

"Rates of discrimination were alarming in the West indicating widespread discrimination based on gender identity/expression: 89% reported experiencing harassment or mistreatment on the job 26% lost a job 24% were denied a promotion 47% were not hired..."

Personally, I can't be out because it is too dangerous for me at school and in my social life. For me I am at risk of losing my family connections because my extended family is very religious so I wouldn't be able to have their support. And when I think about going into cyber security I don't know if they would be supportive of me in that field either or if I would be harassed.

You can change. You don't have to be like this. Your platform does impact people and people will feel more emboldened to hurt others and it will make things worse for people like me and you represent young people like me.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I wish you the best in moving forward.

Sincerely,

  
Ollie

Age 17

Inside Out Youth Services, Peer Advisor