

**From:** Jaska B

**Sent:** Thursday, April 06, 2017 4:24 PM

**Subject:** Comments on H.333

To the members of the Vermont House Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs regarding H.333:

I am a 33 year old born-and-raised Vermonter. I am also genderqueer. This means that I would group myself within the umbrella of Trans\* folk. Though I was born with a female body, I don't "feel like" a woman, but nor do I "feel like" a man. I exist outside the man/woman binary. I am gender-non-conforming, but in rural Vermont, I pass as at-worst-non-threatening to the status quo in my work pants and plaid shirts. But I am lucky. I am lucky to live in this mostly accepting state, yes. But I am also lucky in the acceptance of my family and lucky in my experiences. I have rarely been in any real danger because of people's reactions to my gender. But many Trans\* folk are often endangered when simply being themselves in the world, particularly Trans women and gender-non-conforming feminine male-bodied people who often face great violence. There is also something beyond just safety, there is the support of feeling acknowledged and accepted. I struggle in my own life, despite the love I am surrounded with personally, to feel visible and known. This is a struggle that for many is so huge it causes them to question their worth and, far too often, to commit suicide.

I ask this of you: Please deliberate on H.333, pass it through committee, and bring it to the full House. And once there, please vote for this bill. To have every existing single-stall restroom in the state be re-marked as non-gendered would be a very small thing for business owners, but it would be a hugely meaningful thing for the Trans\* folk of the state. To have non-gendered bathrooms would very practically help with the physical and emotional safety of so many. It would also be a tremendous gesture to us all that we are seen and accepted. Sometimes that is all that is need to take an at-risk teenager off the path of self-recrimination and suicide. In more ways than one, this bill could quite literally save lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jaska Bradeen  
Underhill, VT