

Dear Commissioner,

I have heard a disturbing rumor that as the essential health benefits are figured out, they may leave out the needs of LGBT folks, especially transgendered people. I hope that it not so. I would expect that in this country and this state, people would receive whatever testing and treatment is necessary, regardless of their sexual orientation.

One of our closest friends has a daughter we've known from birth who all her life has felt male and has finally had the courage to dress and live as a male. He's a lawyer, a productive, taxpaying citizen, and is finally happy and comfortable with himself. It would be wrong for him to be unable to get the health services he needed because of the fluke of having been born into a female body. Please take these situations into consideration when setting up the standards for essential health benefits. Transgendered is how a minority of people are born, it's not a choice, and they should not be discriminated against for that, anymore than left-handed people should be discriminated against because the majority is right-handed.

I hope you will make sure everyone is equally and fairly covered.
Thanks you,

V. B.
Minden