

Dear Representative Newman,

As fellow parents of transgender, non-binary, and gender-expansive youth, we want to thank you for publicly representing our pride in and love for our children. Transgender youth are remarkable, honest, courageous, resilient, and deserving of the chance to live a full and authentic life. When you stood on the floor of the US House of Representatives and said "I'm voting yes on the Equality Act for Evie Newman, my daughter and the strongest, bravest person I know," we felt your words deeply.

We also have the strongest and bravest people we know in our lives. Our kids are a gift that allows us to grow and transform not only as parents, but as human beings. Our kids teach us to look at the world through new eyes, to expand our minds, to open our hearts, and to embrace the unfamiliar.

Unfortunately, many of us also have a person like Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene in our lives. A person who is close-minded, mean, petty, and willing to say hurtful things about our loved ones and even vote against their rights. A person who clings to outdated notions of sex and gender and who refuses to learn from major medical and mental health associations — or from us and from our experiences. A person who promotes junk science and fringe theories in hate-filled attacks against trans youth and adults alike.

That's why it was so inspiring to see you boldly hang the transgender flag outside your office door, to push back in the face of bigotry, and to show that the transgender community and its allies are not going to be bullied into silence. It is heartening to know that your words on the House floor speaking about your love for your daughter will be enshrined in our nation's permanent record along with similar words from Reps. Katherine Clark, Deb Haaland, Pramila Jayapal, and Jan Schakowsky about their transgender, non-binary and gender-expansive children and grandchild.

You have each elevated the voices of us through your actions and representation. Your presence in the Capitol gives us hope for the hundreds of thousands of transgender children and adolescents throughout our country and that they will soon be treated with the dignity and respect that they deserve. We celebrate our children, we celebrate yours, and await the day when we can all celebrate that their rights have finally been secured.

With love and respect,
Parents of Transgender, Non-Binary, and Gender-Expansive Youth