

By Email

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The Senate of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A4

Dear Senators:

**RE: Bill C-279: An Act to Amend the *Canadian Human Rights Act* and
the *Criminal Code* (gender identity)**

Today is the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia. On this important day, I am writing to ask Senators to support Bill C-279, the “Gender Identity Bill”, and to encourage the Senate to pass this bill – unamended – without delay.

Individuals who identify as part of the trans/transsexual/transgender/ intersex/two-spirit/gender variant (“trans”) community in Canada suffer from various forms of discrimination and violence. Trans people are among the most disadvantaged and vulnerable minority groups in Canadian society, and suffer a wide range of discrimination. It is well past time for Parliament to formally recognize the equality and dignity of trans people in this country. This bill enshrines that equality in law.

Debate on this bill at second reading has now been on hold since February 2014. We exhort honourable senators to resume debate on

this bill so that it may proceed to passage, in the form passed in the Commons, where it passed with support of members in all parties.

Yours truly,



Josh Paterson
Executive Director

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