

Dear Jeff Mateer,

We're writing to you as parents to another parent. We love our children, and you must love your own. We love them fiercely, and sometimes we fear for them. We want to tell you about our families, and how we love and fear for our children, because President Trump has nominated you for a lifetime appointment as a U.S. district court judge. Mr. Mateer, that makes us afraid for our children, because our children are transgender.

As parents, we are deeply disturbed by your remarks stating that children like ours are evidence of "how Satan's plan is working." It is hard to imagine a crueler thing to say about a child. It is obvious from your remarks in 2015 that you did not know the child whose very existence you mocked. Have you ever met a transgender child like ours? If you met our families, you would know that while children like ours can face a lot of misunderstanding, there is nothing wrong with who they are.

We believe our children are miracles, like every child—not a part of "Satan's plan." As every reputable medical and pediatric association agrees, there is nothing wrong with being transgender, and children like ours can grow and thrive if they are loved and supported, just like their peers. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, "transgender children fare much better when they feel supported by their family, school and larger community. Shaming children based on their gender identity or expression is harmful to their social-emotional health and may have lifelong consequences."

We know this to be true because we have seen it with our own eyes. We have loved and supported our children through our own initial uncertainties about what it means to be transgender, through months or years of exploring their gender identity, through countless conversations with experts and other parents, through the fear—and for some of us the reality—of bullying from our children's peers or even from adults, and through the relief and the joy of seeing our children be able to live their truth, be seen for who they are, and just be kids. We can't help but wonder if you have ever taken a moment to put yourself in our shoes, or in the shoes of our children. As parents we are alarmed that you, as a state official and a nominee for a lifetime position of immense responsibility, would engage in rhetoric that not only publicly shames but demonizes our children and so many others like them.

We are also alarmed by your past statements appearing to endorse damaging "reparative" or "conversion" therapy practices that have been rejected by the medical community and can cause terrible harm to children like ours. To quote the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians:

"Although a handful of unethical clinicians still employ reparative [or conversion] therapy, the medical and mental health professions have discredited and condemned it. Major professional organizations, including the American College of Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Psychoanalytic Association, the American School Counselor Association, the American Psychological Association and the National Association of School Psychologists have explicitly rejected efforts to change a child or adult's gender identity or gender expression."

In short, the reason why numerous states and cities have banned conversion therapy is that it is a fraud that endangers children like ours. As parents, we cannot imagine that someone who promotes such practices could be fit to hold an office with such broad and grave responsibilities as a federal judge—or that children or families like ours could count on a fair hearing from such a judge in a case of any kind.

Hundreds of thousands of children and adolescents throughout this country are transgender, like our kids. Like all children—like your children, Mr. Mateer—they deserve to grow up knowing that they are loved and supported. Your statements about children like ours are the opposite of love—they are cruel. We urge you to apologize sincerely and without reservation to us and our families and all the others like us, and to clearly articulate how wrong and damaging your words are to children like ours—or to withdraw your nomination.

We the undersigned,

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| Susan Gerth | KS |
| Crystal Yamazaki | TN |
| Chelsa and Andrew Morrison | AZ |
| Dawn Bennett | TN |
| Hannah Edwards | MN |
| Georgi Grey | OH |
| L. Anne | FL |
| April | PA |
| Stefanie Taylor | CA |
| Laurie A. | SC |
| Melissa McLaren | OH |
| Lynn White | VA |
| Natalie W. | OK |
| E.J.A. | WI |
| Debi Jackson | MO |
| Maria R | NC |
| Erik Kluzek | CO |
| Karen McLaren | MD |
| Cassandra Peters | KS |
| April | PA |
| Jennifer Grosshandler | IL |
| Berty | FL |
| MamaDee | IL |
| Margaret Schultz | CA |
| Leslie Cohen | NC |
| Lauren Stone | CA |

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| Liz Ulrich | NY |
| Courtney Rodarte | NV |
| Kris | NE |
| Tania Pineo | PA |
| Elizabeth Romeo | NY |
| B. Romeo | NY |
| Leslie Cohen | NC |
| Alisa Miller | TX |
| Leslie Cohen | NC |
| Anita Cockrum | MO |
| Nicola Van Kuilenburg | MD |
| Sarah Langley | IL |
| Martie Sirois | NC |
| Susan Wilcox | CO |
| S. Jean Weber | NC |
| Christine Shaffer | ND |
| Amy Saunders | VA |
| M. D. | CA |
| Rachel Drummond | CO |
| Melissa Sousa | WA |
| E.Lowe | MT |
| Lisa Collins | UT |
| T. E. Kelly | DE |
| Melissa Marie | OH |
| Stephanie | CA |
| J. Duwve | NC |
| J. Duwve | NC |
| Bett Potazek | GA |
| Jennifer Smith | PA |
| Lynn Brennan | MD |
| Kara Bercaw | MI |
| M.J. | NC |
| Tristan Fay | VA |

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| Marbelis Wonders | FL |
| Kristine Markatos-Soriano | NC |
| Deborah Gilgor | NC |
| Amber Leventry | VT |
| Elise Trinity | VA |
| Shawn R. | FL |
| Rev. Nanette de Andrade | NC |
| Jamie Bruesehoff | NJ |
| Rev. Christopher Bruesehoff | NJ |
| G.M. | GA |
| Heather Mahoney | MA |
| G. McManus | MA |
| Angela Robinson | MA |
| Sylvia Fraser-Winchester | VA |
| Danielle Bloom | NJ |
| Andriana Windham | TX |
| Mx. Aliyah Rowan | NJ |
| Alexander Henry | DE |
| Mae Golden | NH |
| Jessica Lee | NY |
| Jen Morrow | ME |
| Lori Woehrle | DC |
| Jodie H. | NC |
| Kelly Heron | MO |
| Tim Heron | MO |
| Shannon Mahoney | ID |
| Tamara Staas | AZ |
| Turner | CA |
| Erica Kasper | FL |
| Jessica Girven | APO AE |
| Megan and Todd D. | CO |
| Louise Horner | MO |

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| Aaron S. Book | DC |
| Lynn Kato | OH |
| Jo Ivester | TX |
| Whitney Treloar | FL |
| Jessie Shirrell | MI |
| Steph | MA |
| Anne Baranski | WI |
| Emily Grote | NY |
| E. August | CA |
| Jessica Randolph | NC |
| Francesca Vitali | NY |
| K. Stevens | TX |
| Keith Foy | CA |
| Kathryn Smith | MT |
| Alison Morris | MN |
| Valerie D. | CA |
| Candice Chaplin | PA |
| Julie Swenson | MN |
| Dionne Baker | CA |
| Rebecca S. | CA |
| Elizabeth Luna | CA |
| Rebecca Nelson | NC |
| Mikael McLaren | OH |
| Danielle Galvan | TX |
| Mireille Cervelli | CA |
| Allison Read | PA |
| Ginny P. | CA |
| Dawn Acero, Minnesota | MN |
| Sarah Watson | MD |
| Brian Watson | MD |
| Sue Connelly | NY |
| Kimberly Diana Chambers | OH |
| Rachel Gonzales | TX |

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| Alexis B. | CA |
| Aaron and Rachel Bedik | TX |
| Vanessa Ford | MA |
| Corinna Lathan | MD |
| M. Bates | CA |
| J. Gottbrath | CA |
| Jeri M. | CA |
| Chelsa and Andrew Morrison | AZ |
| Brianne Jackson | DE |
| Angie Proud Mom | CA |
| Gwen Everman | CA |
| Jennifer Robinson | MI |
| Tiffany Cotter | CA |
| Elizabeth Lester | CA |
| R.M. | NC |
| Joana Rengstorf | MN |
| D. Helene Woods | MN |
| Tiffany Kelly | WA |
| Molly Maxwell | CA |
| Shawna Deck | KS |
| Michelle Sanchez | MT |
| California | CA |
| Deb Markum | KS |
| Julie Greenstein | MD |
| Amanda | MA |
| Karyn Walden-Forrest | MO |
| Michelle Viceroy | MN |
| Tori | CA |
| Mo | MO |
| Pat Brown | KS |
| Laurie J. Arsenault | FL |
| Julie T. | WI |
| Sherrill Halbe | MT |

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| Tierre Mesa | CA |
| Leslie Brown | KS |
| Vickie Sovereign | KS |
| Heather Pereira | CA |
| Debbie Kellogg | KS |
| Krisztina Inskip | IN |
| Mimi Lemay | MA |
| Leslie B. | IN |
| Shelley Horstman | IN |
| Kim O'Meara | CO |
| Indiana | IN |
| John Lippmann | VT |
| Julie Rogers Nance | CA |
| C.S.L. | NC |
| Michele Mazakas | NJ |
| Kimberly Hannon | IN |
| Kimberly I. | TX |
| Svetlana B. | NV |
| Beth M. | NH |
| Lauraine Breda | OH |
| Heather Renee | FL |
| Claire Foley | MN |
| Jenn Burleton | OR |
| Susan Mannett | MA |
| Maureen Mary | KY |
| Loving Parent | IN |
| Carole Galbraith | Ontario, Canada |
| Robert A. Iverson | IL |
| Krista K. Anderson | MI |
| Sarah Markety | CA |
| Darcy L. | GA |
| Vanessa M. | NY |

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| Kitty Flynn | MA |
| Heidi Johnson | GA |
| Pam R. | MN |
| Belinda C. | GA |
| Laurie McLaughlin | NJ |
| JoAnne Geigner | IL |
| Allison Mindel | VT |
| Cathy Folger | AK |
| Michelle Miller | CA |
| Mcdaniel's | PA |
| Kristen Roberts | TN |
| Wendie Dillehay | MI |
| Judy K. Snyder | KS |
| Christine Van Gundy | MN |
| Jennifer Dante | FL |
| Stubby Golob | MI |
| Stacey B. | VT |
| Britt T. | CA |
| Rebecca Martin | NY |
| Beth Scherfee | KY |
| Brooke Stiles | OR |
| Jen M. | IL |
| Maggie Dinsmore | CA |
| Susan Valentine | MD |
| Bridget Mulcahey | CA |
| E.V.G. | CA |
| Samantha N. | IL |
| Sharon K. | TX |
| Michele Drucker | FL |
| Bea Jackson | OH |
| Peter Tchoryk | MI |
| Shannon Fauver | KY |
| Dustin Hare | KS |

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| Meredith Chapman | OH |
| Jennifer C. Beasley | GA |
| Kate H. | FL |
| Susan Thronson | CA |
| J. Kiley | FL |
| Jennifer Poulsen | CT |
| Kacy Jones | OR |
| Laurel Merz | CA |
| Kate Simon | VA |
| Michelle Denny | VA |
| Susan Horowitz | ME |
| Deborah E. Hecht | NV |
| Bonnie M. | OH |
| Annmarie Dodge | NV |
| Amy L. Tjaden | NV |
| Dianne Jones | CA |
| Brea Brown | MO |
| C.E. Fleming | KY |
| Esperanza Lind | WA |
| M.A. | MA |
| Mrs. Bella M. Kaplan | TX |
| Linda Dewlaney | CA |
| Jennifer Pardini | CA |
| Robert Clinkscales | TX |
| Judi Smith | GA |
| Nola Talmage | CA |
| Glenn M. | CA |
| Gayl | NV |
| Britt Cloudsdale | NC |
| Anniesue | GA |
| Krea Heart | AZ |
| D. Han | CA |

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| Karen G. | NC |
| Elishia Featherston | TX |
| Rhonda Robinson | FL |
| Carrie Larsen | TX |
| Robert Larisch | CA |
| Robyne Ruterbusch | CA |
| Amber and Adam Briggie | TX |
| Coleen Sullivan | NJ |
| DeeDee Peters | TX |
| S. Gilmore | NC |
| S. Thomas | WA |
| Vicki Byard | IL |
| Jill Boogren | MN |
| Debie Tufts | TX |
| Tina Paige | TX |
| Kristin C. | CT |
| Jeff G. | NC |
| Maryann Stewart | CA |
| Kathy Mitchell | OH |

278 parents of transgender children, from 36 states, have signed this letter.