

I was a clinically depressed child growing up, both unhappy with my body and by the way I was perceived by others around me. I had no words for this pain at the time.

I realized I was transgender at age 12, and everything started falling into place. Then puberty began.

I attempted suicide at age 13 as a direct result of life-long gender dysphoria, which is a state of sustained distress caused by the feeling that one's gender identity does not match one's sex as registered at birth.

I came out to my parents at age 15 and requested to see a therapist who specialized in Gender Affirmative Care.

Life became progressively easier the longer I was in therapy, as that therapy gave me space and permission to explore myself.

I socially transitioned during my Junior Year of Highschool, and was granted permission to use the men's restroom and locker room by my teachers.

I began college socially male, but my suicidal ideation returned in response to my body dysphoria despite the social euphoria of being accepted as male.

I spent four frustrating years of college working towards earning money for a therapist's letter of recommendation towards Gender Affirmation surgery. The process was so difficult that it led me to my second suicide attempt.

Finally, with help from the medical team at Equitas Health Center, I was given a letter of recommendation and began using hormone replacement therapy my Senior year of college and received Gender Affirmation surgery soon after.

I haven't had a single second of dysphoria since this surgery.

I'm now living a full and beautiful life because my parents made an informed decision to place me in Gender Affirmative Care at my behest.

I can't imagine a reality where that suicidal child would be denied the life saving medical care he needed, and I urge those in positions of power to understand that I was just one of hundreds of transgender children whose life was saved by the understanding of his parents and medical providers.

Thank you, and I won't be taking any questions at this time.