

Thank you from a Masshole mom:

When my son Felix was born, the first thing I said to my mother was, “He doesn’t have to be smart, he doesn’t have to be a good athlete, he doesn’t have to be pretty, but he has to be nice, and he has to be funny.” As he grew, he struggled with anger that seemed to have no source. Sullen, withdrawn and uncomfortable in his own skin, I watched and wondered why someone so small could have so much unhappiness inside.

If only I knew then what I know now. That my little girl bore the heart and mind of a boy . . . the sadness and anger we would have escaped. From the time Felix was old enough to choose for himself, he picked boy’s toys over girl’s. Little did I know, he was introducing himself on playgrounds as Frank or Tim, rather than the girl’s name we had given him. On Halloween, he chose Bob Ross, Edward Scissorhands and Magnum PI (he was funny!), having one night a year where he could sit comfortably in his own skin. We moved from tankinis to board shorts and rash guards, long hair to short “like Daddy’s.” I felt progressive and hip allowing my daughter to express herself outside what was expected of her.

And yet it wasn’t until the moment he stood before me in my kitchen, and said, “Momma, I keep telling and showing you all the reasons why I am a boy, and you keep telling me all the reasons I’m not.” That I realized where the anger came from. How I wish I had seen it sooner.

Now 13, Felix is president of his school’s G.S.A. He is kind and funny. He is friends with everyone, and beloved by kids and adults alike. He is on his school’s student culture team and works hard to create safe spaces for all the kids around him. He is a great student, who wants to be anything from a veterinarian to a brain surgeon on any given day. And while he has struggled—because being trans is not easy—he rises and tries again.

I am telling you about my son, because he—and other kids and adults just like him—are being marginalized and told that they are “less than.” As I know you know, we are fighting to protect his rights at a time where our own President chooses hate and bigotry over love and peace. Felix came out when being trans was becoming more recognized and accepted and now he finds himself—at 13—having to defend his very existence.

This fight has felt long and hard. But within it, we see GOOD. And what you and your firm have done with the “Masshole” video was beyond good. You made people think, and I hope swayed some minds that are being controlled by fear and hate. And at the very least, you brought a smile to my and children’s faces, showing our whole family and community of friends that there are good people out there who will continue to fight for what is right.

Thank you, for finding the light and the humor and balancing it with good. I am attaching a pic of our family from this summer to put a face to this effort. We are just one family, he is just one child, but there are thousands that stand alongside of us showing our gratitude.

If there is anything I can ever do to thank you and anyone at your firm for the video you produced, don’t hesitate to contact me. I am so grateful.

Hilary

PS - please feel free to share this with anyone you wish, everyone deserves to feel good right now. And remember, YES on 3!

