

MIGUEL SANDERS

Transgender Man Philadelphia, PA

Miguel is a mixed Latino and white transgender man in his early 20s, living in Philadelphia, PA. He is currently fighting to get a hysterectomy covered by insurance, which has been a difficult and ongoing process. Miguel's insurance is through Pennsylvania's Medicaid program, which is supposed to cover medically necessary care related to gender transition. Unfortunately, Medicaid has been refusing to cover Miguel's hysterectomy, and he has been fighting with his insurance for almost a year. His surgeon—who has performed dozens of surgeries on transgender men—said he had not seen such difficulties with insurance coverage in the past, and that the system is not working the way it is supposed to.

As part of Miguel's attempts to get his hysterectomy covered by his insurance, he learned that the medical director in charge of reviewing his case is transphobic and speaks about transgender identity in a way that is dismissive. Miguel can only assume that his difficulties getting his insurance to pay for a medically-necessary procedure stems, at least in part, from this unsupportive medical director.

Right now, Miguel is working to save money for school. Beginning in January, 2018, he will be enrolled at the Community College of Philadelphia to continue his education. In his spare time, Miguel is a musician and plays a number of instruments. He is also an amateur photographer, and loves training dogs.



At-a-Glance

- Musician and amateur photographer
- Attempted suicide
- Experienced health care discrimination

For more information about this community member contact NCTE's Communication Manager, Jay Wu, at jwu@transequality.org

For more information about NCTE's Voices for Trans Equality network contact NCTE's Community Storytelling Advocate, Rebecca Kling, at rkling@transequality.org