

## JESSE BRAJVHA

### Graduate Student, Transgender Man Philadelphia, PA

Jesse is a white transgender man in his mid-30s, living in Philadelphia, PA. He is currently in his second year of grad school at Drexel University, where he is studying public health. His transition has helped him become closer with his family, particularly his brother, who Jesse describes as having been “a pretty hateful dude growing up.” Fortunately, over the course of Jesse’s life, his brother has “become a really good person since then,” and is now a supporter of trans equality.

Jesse’s studies focus on transgender health and health care, ranging from research on the use of PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) among transgender women to examining how transgender men access health care.

Unfortunately, Jesse’s own experiences in health care have not always been positive. Jesse has had difficulty finding doctors who are knowledgeable about trans identity, and he admits he “may avoid taking preventative care measures,” like regular STI tests, because of worries about homophobia and/or transphobia. In particular, Jesse once needed a transvaginal ultrasound due to cramping. He was referred to a doctor by an LGBT health center, only to be told the doctor he wished to see “only worked with women.” Jesse was unable to find another doctor to perform the procedure, and fortunately learned later the procedure was probably unnecessary.

Jesse is a strong advocate for transgender equality, and has worked with various LGBT groups in and around Philadelphia.



#### At-a-Glance

- Graduate student in public health
- Has experienced health care discrimination
- Family was initially not supportive, has since become strong allies

For more information about this community member contact NCTE’s Communication Manager, Jay Wu, at [jwu@transequality.org](mailto: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](mailto:rkling@transequality.org)