

Gabrielle Lennon

Parent of trans teen Sarasota, FL



Gabrielle Lennon, of Sarasota FL, is a married white mom in her early 50's. She's the mother of a of a transgender teen daughter, who is 14 years old. Gabrielle always supported their child's gender exploration at a young age, however due to bullying at school, at age 8 child began presenting as a boy. Years of low grades, depression and anxiety followed. There were no resources for the family to help guide them. The only local LGBTQ support group was for older teens and adults.

Around age 12, Gabrielle's daughter finally asked her what it meant to be transgender. Gabrielle herself was unsure how to answer so together, she and her child researched. Finally finding the answers to her child's question, Lennon's daughter was able to come out to her and the rest of the family. The family was very supportive and affirming. Because of her age, Gabrielle knew it was best to start looking for an endocrinologist. They found an affirming doctor who was well versed in pediatric trans care and put in an order for Lupron to suppress puberty. However, the family is on Florida Medicaid and was denied several times because her daughter was transgender. and her daughter was started on Lupron to suppress puberty.

Gabrielle appealed and wrote hundreds of letters to find research and studies to support the need for the Lupron. After six months of communications between herself and Medicaid, Lennon won and her daughter was able to be placed on Lupron covered by Medicaid. After her success, Gabrielle realized the need for parents of younger trans youth and reached out to the local LGBTQ group she couldn't join before. After speaking with them, she and her daughter helped the center expand its services to parents of younger trans youth as well as the creation of a support group for younger trans teens.

At-a-Glance

- Parent of trans teen
- Got Medicaid to cover child's transition
- Low income parent
- Created local support group for parents and trans teens

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

For more information about NCTE's Families for Trans Equality network contact NCTE's Family Organizers, DeShanna Neal (dneal@transequality.org) or Debi Jackson (djackson@transequality.org)