

Torrente of the Middletown Township Police Department.

Sergeant Torrente was the first woman in the history of the police department to be promoted from patrol officer to detective in 2014. Recently Aileen was promoted again; this time from detective to her current rank of sergeant.

Sergeant Torrente's success will set a great example for current and future officers at my hometown township police department in Middletown. Aileen's hard work, determination, and diligence led to her promotion. She is a great role model for our community, and I look forward to seeing more promotions in the future as she works her way up to her dream job of chief of police. Mr. Speaker, I wish her well.

RECOGNIZING BENSLEM TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bensalem Township Council, who took a huge step to ensure the safety and well-being of their residents by prohibiting vaping in public township facilities, including parks and other recreational areas.

The health and safety of our children should be our top priority, and the recent youth vaping epidemic has been a huge health issue in our community and across our Nation.

I recently had the opportunity to meet with students from New Hope Solebury Cares who expressed their concerns with how prevalent vaping has become in their schools, and they talked about solutions that we can work on to bring attention to this issue.

Part of the rise in youth vaping has been attributed to flavored nicotine. Flavors such as mango, cucumber, and other types of flavors undoubtedly target our children.

Tomorrow the House will vote on final passage of H.R. 2339, the Protecting American Lungs and Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act. This legislation would ban all flavored vaping products, e-cigarette ads targeting youth, and remote cigarette sales. As a cosponsor of this bill, I look forward to voting in favor of this bill and taking a much-needed step to mitigate tobacco use among our children.

COMMEMORATING JAZZ AND FRIENDS NATIONAL DAY OF SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY READINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG) for 5 minutes.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of transgender and non-binary youth. Today is Jazz and Friends National Day of School and Community Readings.

I would like to read the book "I Am Jazz" by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings.

I Am Jazz!

For as long as I can remember, my favorite color has been pink. (My second-favorite

color is silver and my third-favorite color is green.)

Here are some of my other favorite things: dancing, singing, back flips, drawing, soccer, swimming, makeup, and pretending I'm a pop star.

Most of all, I love mermaids. Sometimes I even wear a mermaid tail in the pool!

My best friends are Samantha and Casey. We always have fun together. We like high heels and princess gowns, or cartwheels and trampolines.

But I'm not exactly like Samantha and Casey.

I have a girl brain but a boy body. This is called transgender.

I was born this way!

When I was very little, and my mom would say, "You're such a good boy," I would say, "No, Mama. Good GIRL!"

At first my family was confused. They'd always thought of me as a boy.

As I got older, I hardly ever played with trucks or tools or superheroes. Only princesses and mermaid costumes.

My brothers told me this was girl stuff. I kept right on playing.

My sister says I was always talking to her about my girl thoughts, and my girl dreams, and how one day I would be a beautiful lady. She would giggle and say, "You're a funny kid."

Sometimes my parents let me wear my sister's dresses around the house. But whenever we went out, I had to put on my boy clothes again. This made me mad!

Still, I never gave up trying to convince them. Pretending I was a boy felt like telling a lie.

Then one amazing day, everything changed. Mom and Dad took me to meet a new doctor who asked me lots and lots of questions. Afterward, the doctor spoke to my parents and I heard the word "transgender" for the very first time.

That night at bedtime, my parents both hugged me and said, "We understand now. Be who you are. We love you no matter what."

This made me smile and smile and smile.

□ 1030

Mom and Dad told me I could start wearing girl clothes to school, and growing my hair long. They even let me change my name to Jazz.

Being JAZZ felt much more like being ME!

Mom said that being Jazz would make me different from the other kids at school, but that being different is okay. What's important, she said, is that I'm happy with who I am.

Being Jazz caused some other people to be confused too, like the teachers at school.

At the beginning of the year they wanted me to use the boys' bathroom, and play on the boys' team in gym class, but that didn't feel normal to me at ALL.

I was so happy when the teachers changed their minds. I can't imagine not playing on the same team as Casey and Samantha.

Even today, there are kids who tease me, or call me by a boy name, or ignore me altogether. This makes me feel crummy.

Then I remember that the kids who get to know me usually want to be my friend. They say I'm one of the nicest girls at school.

I don't mind being different. Different is special! I think what matters most is what a person is like inside.

And inside, I am happy. I am having fun. I am proud!

I am Jazz!

Thank you, Jazz Jennings, for your courage.

CHILDREN NEED OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE GENDER IDENTITY WITHOUT CRITICISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise to speak about a book, a book much like "I Am Jazz" that I have had the privilege of reading before on the House floor for a number of years. It is an opportunity for children to explore their gender identity without being criticized. This book is titled "They, She, He easy as ABC."

They! they! They! they! New friends are everywhere waiting to play!

Out on the dance floor we love to sing they. They is a way to let everyone be. No one left out and everyone free. Then when we're friends, we sing they, she, he, ze. Making it easy as a-b-c-d.

Let's dance!

A. Ari loves to arabesque. They hold their pose with ease.

B. Brody is a break dancer. Brody loves to freeze.

C. Cory leaps high like a cat. She springs and leaps and bounds.

D. Diego drums and dances. Tree has all the sounds.

E. Ebony flies everywhere. They spread their arms like wings.

F. Fawn is free as a flower. Fawn can bring the spring.

G. Gia's going fast and strong. She's dancing on the go.

H. Harvey's heart beats happily. Hip hop makes her flow.

I. Indigo's into insects. Ze loves the buzz-vibe.

J. Jorge jams to jazzy tunes. He or they can jive.

K. Kelly can kick super high. His heart lives in the sky.

L. Lourdes sings of lofty heights. Their songs let them fly.

M. Marley is a star mermaid. He or she flows with the sea.

N. Nathan is a nesting bird. He just wants to be.

O. Ocean's arms are open wide. Tree swings and sways about.

P. Paul pretends to be a plant. Paul grows up and OUT.

Q. Quetzal is so, so quiet. He rests just like a queen.

R. Rene is into rainbows. He creates the scene.

S. Sky is like a star so bright. All the pronouns are right.

T. Tai is tiger in the night. He claims his own might.

U. Una is a unicorn. They prance to their own sound.

V. Viola's a volcano. Her power's in her ground.

W. Wren whistles when she dances. She knows just what to do.

X. Xander exaggerates moves. They're extremely cool.

Y. Yoli yells YES! joyously. Their voice becomes the song.

Z. Zahara zooms in and out. Ze knows that ze belongs.

Now's your chance. We need your moves.

Join the dance. There's always room.

Maya makes the art and words. She sings the song to life. Matthew dreams and tinkers. He makes the work tight.

Together they make books for the kids they used to be. And for their own two kids so all kids can grow free!