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My existence cannot simply be erased by writing me out of law

By Peggy Sue Andre
Guest Commentary

The law, genetics, medicine and psychology are on the side of transsexuals as are the professionals that practice those disciplines including the American Medical Association.

But the Trump administration is trying to erase all that.

A "leaked" memo is receiving a well-deserved tidal wave of resistance. The proposal would erase changes made under President Barack Obama that defined and recognized variances in gender more in accordance with modern medicine and psychology in the administration of a number of federal agencies and programs.

The New York Times reported that the Trump administration would use a medically archaic definition of gender and sex: "a person's status as male or female based on immutable biological traits identifiable by or before birth." That definition does not recognize that there are several gender variations below the strict XX or XY definition of sex.

President Donald Trump might even try to bypass hearings for proposed rule-making, the standard practice of review for these matters which of course make no difference to him.

This inhumane attempt to "erase" protection of transgender people from federal regulations and civil rights protection, such as Medicare

rule 1557 and Title IX smack of the eugenics movement of the last century.

This trans woman will not be erased.

The United States is the only Western civilization that even still entertains arguments that transgenderism does not exist. That argument was over way back in the last century for the rest of the civilized world.

The superficial genetic argument that transgenderism does not exist is a blatant attempt to remove it from medicine and science. If you can erase it from med-

icine and science, you can make it a political argument to feed to Trump's far right supporters. Trump has already ordered some federal agencies to erase "science-based outcomes" from federal regulatory and procedural documents. So, transgenderism is just another example of the Trumpites' science denial.

And yet still we see the argument repeated in mainstream media. The colonial-police-power mentality has always used fake science, pseudo-science, just plain

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ignorance and let's not forget religion to dehumanize their targets of discrimination and to justify it. That is the history of all civil rights struggles in America.

Just last week Denver Post columnist Krista Kafer penned a column that argued basic XX and XY genetics is the end of the discussion as to whether trans people even exist. Well not quite. Current genetic and molecular research goes much deeper than that.

Shortly after conception a fetus begins to secrete hormones of all kinds. These hormones go out to the various developing organs including the brain. Cells have what are called hormone receptors. Depending on the quantity of hormones and how these receptors receive these hormones, in

part, determines each person's individuality. The rest of the genetic sequence is obviously important also.

Transgenderism is therefore not a "life-style choice" as fostered by the right-wingers for all of the LGBTQ spectrum, a lie to justify inhuman discrimination.

There are seven billion individuals on this planet, and nobody fits neatly into either an XX or XY binary box. Transgenderism is a naturally occurring condition of millions of human beings that begins shortly after conception. Despite obvious reporting difficulties, there is still estimated to be about 1.5 million transgendered human beings in the United States. And yes, we live in Denver and work in many professional, governmental and licensed occupations. We are just plain law-abiding, tax-paying folks.

I have been "out" in Denver as a trans woman for decades and I never experienced personal

threats and vandalism to my home until Donald Trump was elected.

Trump of course claims he is not a provocateur, but the very worst of his followers demonstrably believe he is with their horrid behavior. All kinds of racial, ethnic, religious and LGBTQ hate crimes have risen dramatically since Donald Trump was elected president.

It remains to be seen what protection the Colorado Public Accommodation Act will provide if the federal government and the federal courts turn on us.

Are medically diagnosed transgendered people the canaries in the dark mines of America's right wing?

Transgenderism is a prior existing condition from conception. Threats to our civil rights and health care will not be tolerated. We may not expect non-LGBTQ people to understand us trans persons, but that is not an excuse to engage in ignorant discrimination against us.