

It is no secret that the LGBTQ+ community has endured hatred in different aspects of their lives, due to misconception and ignorance. And it saddens me that they sometimes do not receive the appropriate medical care they deserve because they fear going to a doctor's office because of the stares, the judgement, or refusal of treatment. I found it really disturbing to watch and hear how transgenders struggle when they have not been able to change their legal name to their chosen name. I find it extremely disrespectful that after they have stated their paperwork says a certain name and gender but express, they would like to be called "so and so" and their wishes are not respected instead they receive a horrible response, an ugly look, and criticized. In all honesty how hard is it? To just understand and respect their wishes. When I take my children to their pediatrician, the nurse does not call them by their given name. She opens the door and calls out "for Spiderman and The Little Mermaid" which I find unfair that my children are literally called Spiderman and The Little Mermaid, yet a transgender individual cannot be called by their chosen name just because that name does not match their driver's license or insurance card. It bothers me that they sometimes get further harassed in the exam room by the provider by making comments such as wanting them to refer them to a psychologist/psychiatrist instead of just treating them like any other person and listening to their chief complaint of what brought them in in the first place. Maybe I should be referred to a psychologist/psychiatrist as well because it is not "normal" for my children to be called fictional characters what if they end up not being able to distinguish fiction from reality? Because the only reason they get called like that is because society accepts it and believes it is cute for a child to be called after a fictional character. But what if my children decided to be called a name that is not specific to their gender assigned at birth would they now begin to make a fuss about paperwork and insurance cards not matching?

I was raised to respect any human being regardless of their race, age, gender, or sexual preference and to not assume anything about anyone who I found different from me because we are all equal in the eyes of God. And I hold those values to a high standard in my everyday life and I will do the same when I

become a nurse. I know I will encounter situations that might make me feel uncomfortable or that I do not agree with, but that should never interfere with the care an individual deserves. Everyone deserves to be treated with respect and dignity regardless of our own beliefs. I admit I have a difficult time fully understanding all the new terms used in the LGBTQ+ community but that will not stop me from respectfully asking them or letting them know that I don't quite understand some of the new terms and let them know that I am willing to learn in order to provide the care they deserve because "to treat them, I need to know who they are."