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Dear Temple Israel Education Community,

Our tradition teaches us that all human beings are created *B'tzelem Elohim*, in the image of God. All people deserve dignity, equity and respect.

Yesterday, President Trump's administration withdrew guidance to schools on protecting transgender students from discriminatory treatment. This represents a devastating step back for transgender civil rights and leaves us worried about LGBTQ rights.

In our education program at Temple Israel, we are committed to making sure all our students feel safe, loved, and included regardless of gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or any other identity that makes us who we are. Our goal is that each child in our school feels surrounded by love and support. We work to ensure this on every level. For example, there are gender neutral and gender designated bathrooms on every floor, and your student should use the restroom that feels most comfortable for them. We are grateful that Massachusetts already guarantees these protections. No action on the national level deters us from guaranteeing that the students in our synagogue community are treated with kindness and respect. We want every family to know that we will continue to uphold these principles of justice, kindness, and support.

As always, our doors are always open for conversation and comfort.

B'shalom,

Rabbi Elaine Zecher
Cantor Roy Einhorn
Rabbi Matthew Soffer
Rabbi Suzie Jacobson
Rabbi Jen Gubitz
Brigid Goggin
Mike Fishbein
Roberta Bergstein