

Minnesota woman filing a lawsuit against employer because company's insurance won't cover transgender son's hormone therapy

By [Jordan Schroeer](#) on Feb 2, 2016 at 11:52 a.m.

Halstad, MN (WDAY TV) - The refusal of insurance coverage for a transgender boy in Halstad is sparking a federal lawsuit by his mom against her employer.

A nurse practitioner is suing Essentia Health because she says the company's insurance isn't covering hormone therapy for her son as he transitions.

The pictures go from a fun little girl, to a determined young man, but the process was drawn out and often disheartening for the family.

"It was two years of hell really. It was sad. He was really withdrawn. he knew he wasn't happy with his body. He didn't know why. And for two years I didn't have my

child anymore," said Brittany Tovar.

Diagnosed by 8 different medical experts with Gender Dysphoria, Reid started transitioning. But Brittany's insurance at Essentia Health wouldn't pay for the hormones because they were for his transition saying they weren't necessary.

"The American Medical Society, the American Psychological Society, a lot of these organizations have policies that state yes, it is necessary, so I felt relieved in knowing that."

Lupron, the medication Reid needed cost nine thousand dollars. The insurance wouldn't cover it. However, they would cover it for women not transitioning.

"Just because my child is transgender does not mean he shouldn't have access to care."

Despite the lawsuit, Brittany still works at Essentia Health in Ada and says there's no hard feelings between her and other employees here.

Her problem is with administration and some in public who she says aren't informed.

"Some transgender whose parent's don't understand it are forced to undergo conversion therapy. Those are the ones who commit suicide."

Tovar says she simply is doing what any mother would and tries to make the world more accepting of people like her son.

"They're also at risk for hate crimes. Physical violence. This is why I'm doing this. I don't want to send my child into a world that hates people they don't understand."

We reached out to Essentia and officials say they don't comment on pending litigation.

Adding they haven't been served the lawsuit yet.

Reid plans on undergoing a double mastectomy this spring. As of right now, insurance won't cover it.



Jordan Schroeer

Born and raised in Perham, MN, I have a connection with the area that goes for generations. I know what people in the region care about and will work tirelessly to deliver the news you want and need. After going to Minnesota State University Moorhead for broadcast journalism and political science, I jumped into the news cycle at WDAY. When I'm not obsessing over the latest information, I can be found going out for family karaoke (Dad and I sing a crowd-pleasing "Rawhide"), driving all over town to find garage sales or curb-side "junk" and watching home renovation shows. If you have any story ideas or would just like to chat, let me know and we'll get together for a conversation.

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