



Mr. Michael E. Haley  
President & CEO  
Ball Memorial Hospital  
2401 W. University Avenue  
Muncie, IN 47303

Dear Mr. Haley:

Indiana Transgender Rights Advocacy Alliance (INTRAA) and Indiana Equality (IE) have received complaints from victims and witnesses that a grave injustice has been perpetrated against a transgender citizen of Indiana, as well as to her life partner, on July 18, 2010 at Ball Memorial Hospital, a Clarion Health facility.

In brief, a transgender woman, [REDACTED], and her partner and child are alleged to have been inhumanely treated, dehumanized and disrespected while making a visit to the emergency center of Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie, Indiana. [REDACTED] was coughing up a large volume of blood. Despite the fact that the intake personnel were shown [REDACTED]'s Indiana state identification which had her female marker in clear print, she was entered into the hospital's system as a male.

The staff allegedly then ridiculed [REDACTED], loudly referring to her as "IT". Her life partner was asked by individual staff members, with raised voices, if she was a "He-She". The patient was then quizzed about her length of time as a "Transvestite" when she clearly identified herself verbally and through official documents as a Transgender Female. Her partner was also otherwise harassed by nursing staff.

[REDACTED] is suspected to have a lung condition that may be the cause of mass bleeding and oral expulsion of blood. Yet, according to [REDACTED] Ball Memorial Hospital refused to provide treatment, with the accompanying statement to the effect of "we do not know how to treat someone like her". This happened after a long wait to be seen by a physician.

This situation is particularly discomfiting as Ball Memorial is the hospital where Ball State University students go for emergency treatment. There are a number of transgender BSU students, as well as other minority students, and they should not have to fear humiliation and refusal of medical care in the emergency room.

As Indiana leaders and advocates for the protection of transgender civil rights, we urge Ball Memorial Hospital to conduct a thorough investigation of these allegations. If the events are proven to be true, we call upon Ball Memorial Hospital to take appropriate actions with the hospital employees involved and to institute policies, procedures and staff training that will ensure that such discriminatory actions are not again perpetrated.

We urge your prompt and thorough attention to this incident.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vivian Benge".

Vivian Benge, President,  
Indiana Transgender Rights Advocacy Alliance  
317-402-1408  
president@intraa.org

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon R. Keep".

Jon R. Keep, President  
Indiana Equality  
888-567-0750  
president@indianaequality.org