



I SUPPORT THE GIRLS

Opinion Editorial

To: New Hampshire Union Leader

Subject: Why Are Chest Binders So Expensive?

Dear Editor,

Binding one's chest is often a vital and life-changing process for many transgender individuals. It not only helps align their outward appearance with their gender identities but also plays a vital role in alleviating gender dysphoria and fostering a sense of authenticity. However, these transformative materials are inaccessible to many members of the LGBTQ+ community.

According to popular chest binder brand GC2B, an average binder costs around \$30-50. With daily wear and wash, it would cost more than \$200 for a rotation of binders throughout the week and would cost around \$2,080 annually. As binders are not considered medical necessities, these costs are not covered by the government or insurance companies.

The cost of binding is not the only issue. "In addition, they [transgender students] may be unsure how to size themselves correctly or which product is best for them," said Krig Berg, Vice President of Queer Activist Collective, the largest LGBTQ+ student organization at Boston University, committed to promoting awareness, visibility and inclusivity of the LGBTQ+ community. "A lot of people are still trying to figure out what feels affirming to them and what products work for them best." Transgender members of the LGBTQ+ community don't have the resources and support to be the best version of themselves, and often no one turns to help them. No chest binders. No financial support. No opportunity for gender-affirmation.

According to the National Women's Law Center, "People who are transgender are twice as likely to be living in poverty as the general U.S. population, with 29% of the respondents indicating that they were living in poverty in 2015, compared to the overall rate of 14% in

the U.S.” Nevertheless, with those statistics in mind, the government and the insurance companies continue to neglect their needs.

With over 1.4 million adults in the U.S. identifying as transgender, making gender-affirming products easily accessible and affordable should be a priority. There needs to be more positive steps taken to support those communities in need and address the issue of accessibility to chest binders.

I Support the Girls provides SLASH kits with chest binders and other gender-affirming products for those individuals in need. However, the demands can far exceed what the organizations could provide. Your monetary or material donations will directly benefit those communities in need by providing them with chest binders, clothes and emergency products. Join ISTG in helping those humans in need so they can be who they are and rebuild their confidence and dignity.

Sincerely,

Dana Marlowe

Founder and Executive Director

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