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This week Miss Pennsylvania who had competed in the Miss U.S.A.- Miss Universe Pageant is reported to have said that she refuses “to be part of a pageant system that has so far and so completely removed itself from its foundational principles as to allow and support natural born males to compete in it.”

Miss Pennsylvania was referring to the fact that until recently the Miss Universe Pageant had a requirement that a contestant must be a naturally born female in order to compete in the Miss Universe Pageant.

My client, Jenna Talackova, who had entered the Miss Universe-Canada Pageant was disqualified on account of that rule.

After we protested that the rule was discriminatory Donald Trump agreed that it violated the laws of the United States and Canada and the Miss Universe Pageant eliminated it as an eligibility requirement for those two countries.

Jenna was reinstated and we were very proud of her victory for civil rights.

Jenna is a beautiful woman in every way. She is physically, emotionally and legally a female.

She had every right to compete and when she did she made so many of us

proud.

The idea that individuals who have transitioned to female should be excluded from a career opportunity solely on account of their gender identity is offensive and demonstrates a disrespect for their dignity and rights.

I was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and grew up there. As a native Pennsylvanian, I am very disturbed that someone who won that title in the Miss Universe competition would appear to support a rule that discriminates and violates the law.

Miss Pennsylvania should speak out in support of equal rights and equal protections for all instead of joining those who wrongly believe that minorities should suffer the indignity of discrimination and a denial of their human rights.

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representing Jenna Talackova
June 10, 2012