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## **WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

Judiciary Committee Public Hearing  
March 24, 2006

Senate Chairman McDonald  
House Chairman Lawlor

### **H.B. No. 5597 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING DISCRIMINATION**

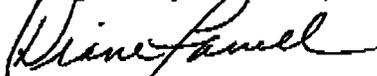
Distinguished Members of the Judiciary Committee; thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony in support of the essential civil liberties and individual rights of the citizens of the State of Connecticut. Basic civil rights protections ensure the ability of people to live and work as productive members of society. Civil rights are an ordinary, universal entitlement of citizenship.

Transgendered people face serious discrimination in the workplace, housing and public accommodations. All too frequently, transgendered people are fired the moment their employers learn of their background. They are often targeted as they try to find a place to live and are regularly asked to leave restaurants, hotels, stores, medical facilities and educational institutions.

No one should lose their job or be denied a place to live because of their gender identity or expression.

In the words of Franklin D. Roosevelt, the 33<sup>rd</sup> President of the United States, "we must scrupulously guard the civil rights and civil liberties of all citizens, whatever their background. We must remember that any injustice, any hatred is a wedge designed to attack our civilization." Therefore, I urge this Committee and the General Assembly to pass HB 5597 to make certain that all citizens of the State of Connecticut are free from discrimination.

Respectfully Submitted,



Diane Farrell

