

Testimony regarding Raised Bill No. 5597
Submitted by Linda Estabrook, Executive Director
Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective
3/24/06

Gender Identity or Expression. A few simple words. However, when placed into Connecticut law, these words can result in important positive changes in the lives of Connecticut residents. All residents, not simply a select group of individuals.

It is of benefit to all of Connecticut to assure that none of us are discriminated against. For example, it is a benefit to all Connecticut residents that we create and maintain an environment where citizens can get a job and keep it instead of being kept out of the job market or losing a job. It is a benefit to all of Connecticut when individuals can get and keep a safe home.

We write our laws to protect the common good and the individuals who make up the population of our state. Who are the individuals protected by this legislation? The 65 year old woman in Avon with that short haircut, blue jeans and work boots. The sixteen year old boy wearing mascara. The baby born with non-traditional genitals. Remember the 1960's and 70's? Remember that boy with the long hair "who looked like a girl"? This legislation would have protected him, too.

This legislation is for all of us. I urge you to support the inclusion of "gender identity or expression" into Connecticut law.

Contact information:
Linda Estabrook, Executive Director
Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective
PO Box 2094
Hartford, CT 06145
860-278-4163