



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 rights of the residents of Connecticut. Equal treatment and protection under the law is the backbone of a fair and just democracy. Across the country and in the State of Connecticut, transgender people face pervasive discrimination in the workplace, housing and public accommodations. No one should lose their job or be denied a place to live because of their gender identity or expression.

Recognizing the need to curb this rampant discrimination, eight states, the District of Columbia and 79 cities and counties across the country have already passed explicitly transgender-inclusive anti-discrimination laws. These laws currently cover 31% of the US population. The State of Connecticut will be joining these leading jurisdictions in civil rights protections after passing HB-5597.

As a step towards insuring all Connecticut residents receive fair treatment and equal protection under the law, the National Center for Transgender Equality asks this Committee and the General Assembly to pass HB 5597

Respectfully submitted,

Mara Keisling
Executive Director

The National Center for Transgender Equality is a national social justice organization devoted to ending discrimination and violence against transgender people through education and advocacy on national issues of importance to transgender people.