

Testimony for the Record
Judiciary Committee
March 26, 2007
At 12:00
Eddie A. Perez, Mayor
Presented by Councilman Pedro Segarra
City of Hartford
In support of HB 7395

Good morning, Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor & Members of the Committee. I submit this testimony today in favor of H.B. No. 7395 AN ACT CONCERNING MARRIAGE EQUALITY.

I am here today to support H.B. 7395, an act concerning marriage equality. HB 7395 is a very important piece of legislation because it moves toward the very principle upon which this country was founded and that this country has struggled to enforce, that that all men and women are created equal.

H.B. 7395 ensures just that, it gives legal recognition to civil marriages and makes those marriages equal under the law to traditional marriages. It does this without any affect on the religious ceremonies or traditions of any church, synagogue or mosque. It is a simple piece of legislation dedicated to equal rights.

I respectfully request that the legislature to pass this piece of legislation. In closing, I would like to read the Council resolution passed by the Court of Common Council of the City of Hartford in support of this legislation.

WHEREAS, Legal recognition of civil marriage is currently not available from the State of Connecticut to same sex couples and same sex couples are excluded from this right which is currently reserved only for heterosexual couples thereby denying equal rights to many residents in a discriminatory manner, and

WHEREAS, State lawmakers Sen. Andrew McDonald, D-Stamford, and Rep. Michael Lawlor, D-East Haven have introduced a civil marriage bill that would end discrimination against same sex couples which is currently granted in our sister State of Massachusetts and other countries so that all peoples receive equal rights and benefits and protections that civil marriage provides, and

WHEREAS, State lawmakers intend to deliver protection and social support of the community through the recognition of same sex marriage, and

WHEREAS, The Civil Marriage Equality Bill provides important legal rights to same-sex couples in Connecticut, thus affording equal rights with dignity, and

WHEREAS, The Civil Marriage Equality Bill also offers an important leap forward in the social understanding of personal freedom, and that civil marriage provided by the state should not discriminate, and

WHEREAS, Civil Marriage is not only founded in love, but it is a civil right, especially to those subjected to social, economic, and legal discrimination due to sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. Same sex couples ought to have these rights protected, full legitimacy and protection under the law, and

WHEREAS, The Civil Marriage Equality Bill would not force churches or religious institutions to either sponsor, advocate, support, officiate the marriage of same sex couples, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Hartford Court of Common Council supports the passage of the Civil Marriage Equality Bill under consideration in the State Legislature.