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**CITY OF STAMFORD**  
**Office of the Mayor**

Testimony of Mayor Dannel P. Malloy

City of Stamford  
In support of Raised Bill 7395

An Act Concerning Marriage Equality

Joint Committee on Judiciary

Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor, Members of the Judiciary Committee, I am testifying today in support of Raised Bill 7395, An Act Concerning Marriage Equality. The proposed legislation amends our administrative laws governing marriage by removing specific references to gender and by inserting reference to “two persons” wishing to be joined in marriage.

The Act respects the fundamental right to privacy and keeps the government out of the decision making of our most simplest of privileges, the right to partner with who you desire.

Moreover, the Act does not force a religious acceptance of any partnership, nor does it require any person authorized to join two persons in marriage to do so in violation of their religious beliefs.

By allowing this change in our marriage laws, those who currently enjoy civil unions will be able to achieve all the legal rights, benefits and responsibilities for married couples that our State can confer. Connecticut voters have shown in polls that they support this equality and that they see marriage as a personal commitment between two people deserving of our understanding and respect. Clearly, the citizens of the State are ahead of its laws and its time for the civil right of equal treatment and protection to also be protected.

Thank you.