



Written Testimony of Denise L. Nappier

Treasurer of the State of Connecticut

SUBMITTED TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

MARCH 26, 2007

Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor, and members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer my unqualified endorsement of **Raised Bill No. 7395, *An Act Concerning Marriage Equality***.

This General Assembly made great progress in 2005 when it passed legislation creating civil unions. Civil unions now afford much-needed protections for same-sex couples and families, but we know full well that civil unions still fall short of full parity with marriage. And we have come to understand that “separate but equal” is a fiction. As a civil society, we should not impose artificial barriers or deny the extension of rights or obligations that some in our society enjoy and others are denied merely on the basis of some label.

Throughout my life, I have been committed to ensuring equal rights and opportunities for all citizens -- whatever their gender, race, ethnic background, creed, physical challenge or sexual orientation may be.

Now is the time to fully support marriage equality. I urge this Legislature to extend all of the rights and responsibilities of marriage to same-sex couples, and enact Raised Bill No. 7395.