



State of Connecticut
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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CHRO

"Equality and Justice"

**Testimony of Raymond P. Pech
Executive Director
Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities**

February 23, 2007

Raised Bill No. 1044: An Act Concerning Discrimination

The Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) supports raised Bill 1044, *An Act Concerning Discrimination*, which would extend statutory protections against discrimination to claims of discrimination based on gender identity or expression. It would bar such discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations, as well as in several other contexts. On November 9, 2000, the Commission issued a Declaratory Ruling that found that discrimination based on gender identity or expression would violate Connecticut's ban on sex discrimination. Therefore, the Commission has interpreted such discrimination to be unlawful since that date. Adding to the statute specific language with respect to gender identity or expression simply underscores the state's commitment to all of its citizens.

CHRO strongly urges a joint favorable report on Raised Bill 1044. Thank you for your consideration of CHRO's views in this matter.