

February 21, 2007

Connecticut State Legislators
Hartford, CT

Re: Testimony for Anti-Discrimination Legislation for Transgender Individuals

Dear Connecticut Legislators:

As a psychologist who works with many transgender clients, I strongly urge you to support legislation that would prohibit employers, landlords, restaurant owners, and others from discriminating against those who do not fit rigid categories of what it is to be a man or a woman. Far too often, I see clients who have lost their jobs, their place to live, or their right to be treated fairly because of their gender identity or expression. And these experiences are often associated with significant depression, anxiety, fear, and trauma. It is hard enough for transgender persons to be true to themselves and pursue their own happiness, without having to fear being jobless or homeless. I would like you to take a moment and think about what it would be like to live with the fear of losing your job or home, or being turned away from a restaurant, not because of something you have done but simply because you were different. Please do the right thing and support legislation that will allow transgender persons to live without fear of losing those things that are basic to human survival – one's livelihood, shelter and self-respect.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

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