



State of Connecticut  
**COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

Central Office ~ 21 Grand Street, Hartford, CT 06106

*Promoting Equality and Justice for all People*

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

**HB 5723, An Act Concerning Discrimination**

**Judiciary Committee  
Public Hearing  
March 19, 2008**

The Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) **supports** HB 5723, *An Act Concerning Discrimination*. This bill will extend statutory protections against discrimination to claims of discrimination based on gender identity or expression. It will 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 underscores the state's commitment to all of its citizens.

CHRO strongly urges a joint favorable report on HB 5723.

Thank you for your consideration of CHRO's views in this matter.