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Written Testimony of John K. Currie

Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
on "An Act Concerning Civil Unions"
Monday, March 17, 2008

I address the Judiciary Committee as a non-gay ally of the effort to obtain full marriage equality in Connecticut.

My son Peter Currie was raised in West Hartford, CT. Peter graduated from Hall High School and went on to obtain his BA in history from Balliol College (Oxford, England). While at Oxford, Peter met his life partner Philip. Peter and Philip have been partnered for ten years. Peter and Philip returned to the United States together eight years ago as a bi-national couple.

Peter and Philip resided in Old Saybrook, CT prior to a move to Maryland where Peter obtained a Master of Public Health degree from Johns Hopkins. Peter is slated to complete his Juris Doctor degree from Georgetown Law Center this spring.

As a bi-national gay couple, our federal government does not recognize the relationship of Peter and Philip. Civil unions do not provide Peter and Philip with the **legal standing** to challenge the federal government's position. Accordingly, Philip is not able to obtain the citizenship rights that would be available to him through marriage if he were in a heterosexual bi-national relationship. Peter and Philip have been forced to expend thousands of dollars and face much uncertainty in their quest to remain together as a gay couple---all necessitated because they are not allowed to marry.

We need to bring full marriage equality to Connecticut. This will allow the **legal standing** necessary for gay married couples to challenge the discriminatory failure of the federal government to recognize same-sex marriages.

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