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Testimony in Support of "An Act Concerning Civil Unions"



I have been in a loving committed relationship with my partner for almost 32 years. We decided in May of 2006 to have a Civil Union as we believe if enough people see that granting us legal rights does not cause the world to fall apart, they would be more accepting of granting us the social rights implied with marriage.

What we have experienced under Civil Union status may not seem like an enormous hardship, yet every time these events occur it points out to us that we are different and we must explain our relationship in ways that our married siblings do not.

We were different when we went for our license at the Town Hall in Manchester. The first person who offered to help us had no idea what a Civil Union License was or looked like; she had to get another clerk while we waited. This person was extremely apologetic and handled completing the license.

Our Civil Union was being performed in South Windsor so the clerk told us after a certain number of days we could return to Manchester to obtain a copy of our filed license. South Windsor would file it with the appropriate state agency and then the agency would send it to Manchester. We waited the number of requisite days and went to Town Hall for a copy. Our license was no where to be found. The clerk called South Windsor and their response, "oh we keep those in a separate envelope from marriage filings and since there are so few being performed we forgot to check the envelope". Our license was still sitting in South Windsor and had not made its way to the state. The clerk in Manchester was