



576 Farmington Ave
Hartford, CT 06106
860-525-7777
www.lmfct.org

SUPPORT HB 5723 *An Act Concerning Discrimination*

Testimony of Anne Stanback
Executive Director, Love Makes a Family

Judiciary Committee
March 19, 2008

Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor, and members of the Judiciary Committee: My name is Anne Stanback and I am the Executive Director of *Love Makes a Family*, a statewide coalition of organizations and individuals working for marriage equality for same-sex couples and for equal rights for all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. I submit this testimony today in support of HB 5723, *An Act Concerning Discrimination*.

This is a bill that your committee has debated and supported before. It is a bill that successfully passed four committees and the Senate last session with only a handful of “NO” votes in the process.

The reason for the strong support of this issue last session is obvious: discrimination—whether it is based on sexual orientation or race or religion...*or gender identity or expression*—is wrong.

What is also wrong are attempts to exclude certain groups of people from the protections delineated in this bill. Love Makes a Family opposes any amendment to exclude teachers from protections in the strongest possible terms. This tactic was attempted and defeated on numerous occasions in the late 80’s and early 90’s as the Connecticut General Assembly debated a similar bill to protect individuals based on sexual orientation. Such efforts are misguided at best and fear-mongering at worst.

Transgender people live and work in our communities. Just as our state has come to understand that gay, lesbian and bisexual people are our co-workers, our neighbors, our children and our parents, so too the citizens of Connecticut have come to see that transgender individuals are all of these things as well. As such, they deserve the same basic protections under state law as any other citizen.

Transgender people are not asking for special rights; they are only asking to be treated fairly. Connecticut has a long and proud history of protecting gay, lesbian and bisexual citizens. Let us do the same for those who are transgender.

As the largest gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender organization in the state, *Love Makes a Family* looks forward to engaging our membership in this important debate. Thank you.