

PLEASE SUPPORT SB 899

**An Act Implementing the Guarantee of Equal Protections Under the
Constitution of the State for Same-Sex Couples**

Hello, my name is Beverly Tremper Prager and I live with my husband Rich in Simsbury where we've raised 2 daughters, Sarah and Alex. Sarah, our eldest is 22, lives in Boston and is a lesbian. I am testifying here today on her behalf so that she could eventually marry the partner of her choice and feel just as accepted and equal in the eyes of our state and country (legislature) as our other daughter who is not a lesbian.

My husband of 26 years and I have tried hard to demonstrate to our daughters that marriage is a commitment that should not be taken lightly, requires hard work and creates much happiness. We want both of our daughters to have the opportunity to experience marriage. Rich & I feel that Sarah's marriage to a partner who is female in no way threatens the institution of marriage, but if entered into with integrity and commitment would only strengthen it in contrast to the many heterosexual marriages we've seen fail.

I am also here for all the others who right now may not have a family member who is gay but believe in equal rights for every citizen under our rules of government.

Please vote for this bill which will afford all our daughters and sons equal rights to marry.

Thank you.