

Testimony for Public Hearing
Judiciary Committee
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S.B. 1125: An Act Concerning the Comprehensive Revision of the Human Rights and Opportunities Statute

Good Morning Judiciary Committee Members. My name is Ginny Gerena, I am a graduate from Advocacy Unlimited and a disabled veteran. I advocate for disabled individuals, youth and seniors. Today I'd like to ask for support of SB-1125, the before mentioned bill, which states the following provisions where the contractor agrees that they will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons, because of marital status, religion, national origin, ancestry, etc. under the EOEAA, (Equal Opportunity Employment Act), present of past history of mental disability, mental retardation, learning disability or physical disability, unless it is shown by (such) the contractor that (such) the disability prevents performance of the work of the work involved, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the state of Connecticut. The contractor also agrees to take affirmative action to ensure that applicants with job related qualifications are employed and are treated without regard to the above mentioned conditions, unless it is shown by the contractor the disability prevents the performance of the work involved. This includes advertisements for employees placed by the contractor, and to give each labor union to have a collective bargaining unit and to post copies of the notice about no such discrimination being tolerated.

On a personal note, I have found that being Latino, I have been subjected to various discrimination scenarios in my past employment, having also been a provider and a consumer of services, there is still much work to be done to eliminate stigma and prejudice in the workplace and in Human Services. I feel this practice hinders individuals to achieve their recovery and full potential; it also acts as a stumbling block for a person's advancement in their career and personal life.

On behalf of the general community I ask that careful consideration to implement this bill. Thank you for your time and attention.