

Testimony Concerning Raised Bill No. 6452

Tim Bergsma, 24 Michelle Lane, Windsor CT 06095

March 18, 2009

Raised Bill No. 6452 elevates “gender identity or expression” to a protected category of diversity with respect to anti-discrimination law. The stated definition dissociates “gender identity or expression” from a person’s assigned sex at birth.

Note that in every particular revision listed in this bill, sex is already a protected category. So the only effective protections added to state law by this bill are those cases where men are identifying, appearing, or behaving like women; or where women are identifying, appearing, or behaving like men.

Society has differing expectations for how men and women should identify, appear, and behave. If those expectations are grounded in the unambiguous biological differences between men and women, then Raised Bill No. 6452 is offering special protection for misrepresentation of biological facts. Conversely, if Raised Bill No. 6452 is to be taken seriously, then all gender-based social expectations must be viewed as arbitrary bigotry. On this view, even the public maintenance of separate restrooms for males and females must receive the same disapproval as maintenance of separate restrooms for whites and blacks.

Any defense of the Raised Bill No. 6452 either fails to appreciate or fails to disclose the social chaos entrained by its underlying philosophy. I ask the Committee to reject the bill in its entirety.