

Judiciary Committee, in support of HB 6599: An Act Concerning Discrimination

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My name is Daniel Schlorff. I am resident of Hamden, founder and President of the Log Cabin Republicans of CT, and have served as local minister with the Church of the Nazarene, and after that, with the Congregational Christian Church.

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We've heard repeatedly that pink is a girl's color. And my partner wears pink shirts.

Kevin works in a public school, and he is excellent at what he does. In his first year directing the Choral Ensembles at Guilford High School, attracted an internationally known conductor to help enhance the talent of his already great choirs. Then, the following year, the Guilford High School choirs were invited to was invited to collaborate with a well-known professional choir—who asked them back! He is loved by his students, colleagues and administrators.

Kevin thrives in Guilford—partly because of his talent, and partly because people in Guilford don't care that he wears pink shirts, and in other ways, expresses who he is in a way that others receive as feminine.

Even if Kevin had equal protection under the constitution, based on his gender presentation, he would not have to think hard before declining a position at a different CT school, where he encountered more idealistic students, colleagues or administrators.

If he worked in a more idealistic public school, his administrator might note Kevin's pink shirts and accuse him of trying to stand out, not fitting in, or not being a team player. If he worked anywhere else, he might find himself on a performance improvement plan, despite his great accomplishments.

Guilford is not revolutionary for hiring a feminine, male choir director, any more than the other schools in CT are revolutionary for hiring a butch, female gym teacher. They just want the best talent, and they got it. Kevin's job might not be secure, however, if his supervisor changes, and the students at Guilford would be deprived of the other opportunities in the works. The kids at GHS are why we need this amendment.

(If time allows, add:)

Connecticut doesn't have much that gives our state an edge in attracting new businesses, and they certainly don't want to be taxed at our current rate. Protecting people of all genders and all gender expressions will provide CT an edge over states with lower taxes, attract more business, and help pay for the programs that have put us in the red.