

# Memo

**To:** Judiciary Committee  
**From:** Robert J. Brothers, Jr., Executive Director  
**Date:** March 21, 2011  
**Re:** HB 6599, AN ACT CONCERNING DISCRIMINATION

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The Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) **supports** HB 6599, *An Act Concerning Discrimination*, which would extend statutory protections against discrimination to claims of discrimination based on gender identity or expression. It would bar such discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations, as well as in several other contexts. On November 9, 2000, the Commission issued a Declaratory Ruling that found that discrimination based on gender identity or expression would violate Connecticut's ban on sex discrimination. Therefore, the Commission has interpreted such discrimination to be unlawful since that date. Adding to the statute specific language with respect to gender identity or expression will clarify the protection against discrimination and it will underscore the state's commitment to all of its citizens.

CHRO strongly urges a joint favorable report on HB 6599. Thank you for your consideration of CHRO's views in this matter.