

**Written Statement of Tammi Dee Voytek, 125 Parklawn Dr.,
Waterbury Ct. 06708-2347**

I stand in support of HB 6599: An Act Concerning Discrimination

Honorable Judiciary Committee members,

**My name is Tammi Dee Voytek, and I thank you for hearing my
testimony today. I'm here to give support to the anti-
discrimination bill HB 6599.**

**I grew up in the fifties when being different in even small ways
could cause one to be ostracized and bullied, so over the
course of years I painfully learned to blend enough to get by
while never quite fitting in. I graduated high school in 1967,
and got married in February of 1969. Having joined the Navy
reserves in 1967, I served in Vietnam from Sept 1969 to Sept
1970 and was honorably discharged in 1973. During the 31
years we were married, I along with my spouse raised three
wonderful children.**

In 2000, after four years of therapy, I finally learned to accept myself as I am and began my transition. Although my marriage ended, I had a family that stood by me and gave me support. I have five grandkids now who are the joy of my life and I assure you my being transgender has not affected them in any negative way. My grandson doesn't want to turn female and my granddaughters are happy being girls. If they learned anything from their experience with me and others in the LGBT community; it's that the world is filled with all kinds of people, and to chose friends for the type of person they are inside. They're growing up in a family environment where they feel free to be themselves and not under pressure to be who they are not.

I would have loved being able to be myself growing up. That's why it's so important to put religious bigotry and prejudice behind us. There are wonderful, creative and knowledgeable transgendered people in our community that are being denied

the right to earn a living or live in housing they can afford. All of us have contributed to society in every field of endeavor. So why should we become worthless, because we live to live our lives as we really are? My Na-Na used to say, people would be a lot happier if they kept their noses out of other peoples business. Why my surgical correction of a birth anomaly should be deemed any less righteous than any other medical procedure is beyond me. We need our human rights now.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

