

March 21, 2011

The Honorable Sen. Eric Coleman and Rep. Gerry Fox

The Judiciary Committee

Room 2C, Legislative Office Building

Hartford, CT, 06106

Support for HB 6599, An Act Concerning Discrimination

Mr. Coleman, Mr. Fox, and Members of the Committee:

Firstly, I would like to thank the committee for allowing me to write on behalf of HB 6599, An Act Concerning Discrimination. As a life-long Wallingford citizen, Southern Connecticut State University student, and supporter of equality, I urge you in passing HB 6599, as it is a vital piece of legislation that would ensure opportunity for all in Connecticut.

Without the passage of this bill, gender non-conforming and trans-identified individuals remain unprotected under Connecticut law. Currently, such residents are forced to live in fear of losing their rights to education, employment, and housing; basic rights that no resident should have to expect subject to jeopardy. Without the addition of "gender identity" and "gender expression" to Connecticut non-discrimination law, a multitude of this state's citizens remain unprotected from such unheard of prejudices.

Already successfully implemented into more than 100 cities, 13 states, and even nine major Connecticut employers such as Xerox and Pitney Bowes, the addition of "gender identity" and "gender expression" to Connecticut non-discrimination law is a step this state has fallen far behind on for much too long. We need to stop marginalizing the citizens of our state. To stand idly by while Connecticut residents- our friends, our family, our neighbors, and our community- live in fear of discrimination is simply unacceptable.

Please, support equal opportunity and fairness for all in Connecticut by passing HB 6599, An Act Concerning Discrimination. Thank you for your time and consideration on this vital issue.

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