

Testimony of
Elizabeth J. Deck
To Support
HB 6599: An Act Concerning Discrimination
Before the Judiciary Committee

Good afternoon, Representative Fox, Senator Coleman, and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Elizabeth Deck and I am currently a graduate student at the University Of Connecticut School Of Social Work. I am testifying today in support of HB 6599: An Act Concerning Discrimination.

By passing this bill, Connecticut takes a strong stance in affirming and supporting all of its residents. Recent reports have found that transgender people face discrimination in all areas of their lives, from housing, to medical treatment and loss of employment (ctEQUALITY, talking points).

More than 100 cities in 13 states including Washington, D.C. have successfully included similar policies (ctEQUALITY, talking points). In Connecticut, eight businesses have implemented non-discrimination policies, such companies include Aetna, The Hartford, and school institutions including Yale and Wesleyan (ctEQUALITY, talking points). But uniform protections to create solidarity throughout Connecticut are still needed.

As an ally, this bill is extremely important to me, not only on a professional level but on a personal level. My profession's code of ethics instruct me to help people in need, address social problems and challenge social injustices (NASWDC.org, 2011). But it is so much more than that, the people that are directly affected are not strangers. They are our friends, our family members, loved ones, neighbors, and coworkers.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to speak in front of you all today. I urge all members to help ensure that all Connecticut's residents are given equal opportunity to succeed.

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