

To Senator Eric Coleman and Representative Gerry Fox and members of the committee:

RE: Support for HB 6599: An Act Concerning Discrimination

My name is Joshua Delekta and I am writing to you about a very important piece of legislature, HB 6599: An Act Concerning Discrimination. This is perhaps one of the most important pieces of legislature our state can pass this year. This bill deals with equality and fairness for everyone, but especially for those that are gender nonconformists. If we add Gender Identity and Gender Expression to Connecticut's Anti-Discrimination Law, then we are protecting those that do not associate with their own sex, and we are providing them with equality and safety throughout the state.

Without the passing of this bill, those that choose to show their gender in a nonconforming way can be removed from their apartment, fired from their job, or even thrown out of a public place, such as a movie theatre or restaurant. We are all united by being a part of the human species, and we can no longer turn a blind eye when it comes to gender nonconformists. I have a relative in the family who transitioned from being a female to a male and the struggles he went through were astounding. His only crime was not being happy with his assigned sex and having society reject him once he corrected the problem and had the lifestyle he wanted. Who knows, the very person we may be shunning since they do not associate with their sex, could be the doctor that finally finds the cure for cancer, or could be a great and wonderful leader in the field of business.

I have been a lifelong resident of Connecticut have seen this wonderful state go through so much and see the true beauty behind everything. We are one of the many states facing a huge budget crisis and our trying to emerge as a powerful and competitive state again. We were one of the first few states to grant marriage equality to same-sex couples. Now let us use this as a jumping point to extend the right of equality and protection to those that do not conform to the ideologies of their sex. This is the next giant step for the state of Connecticut and I know we can do it.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and thank you for your attention on this matter.

Joshua Delekta  
49 Ginger Lane  
Torrington, CT 06790