

March 20, 2011

The Honorable Sen. Eric Coleman and Rep. Gerry Fox

The Judiciary Committee

Re: Support for HB 6599: An Act Concerning Discrimination

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

I am writing to show my support for HB 6599: An Act Concerning Discrimination. As a Connecticut resident and supporter of human rights, I stand behind this bill, intended to protect those who may or may not choose to their lives according to the gender and sexual scripts designated by our society. Passing this bill will make it unlawful to treat members of a gender non-conformist community as second class citizens who are punished daily by being denied jobs, exposed to harassment and violence, bullied in school, and often denied adequate healthcare.

As lifelong resident of Connecticut I have always taken pride in living in a state at the forefront of civil liberties. Connecticut, has historically, paved the way for equality by making it illegal to discriminate against several minority groups, based on the color of their skin or biological sex. I would like to see Connecticut continue in its role as a progressive state by extending these rights to those who do not conform to prescribed gender and sexual norms. By doing so, Connecticut will not only solidify its status as a safe state supportive of all human rights, but encourage others to analyze and rethink their own policies and human rights stance.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Laura Sanchez-Garcia

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