

March 21, 2011

The Honorable Sen. Eric Coleman and Rep. Gerald Fox

The Judiciary Committee

Support for HB 6599, An Act Concerning Discrimination

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

Up until two months ago I did not know much information about the LGBT community and specifically this bill on adding gender identity and expression to Connecticut's non-discrimination laws. After attending several presentations by CT Equality and CWEALF I have become educated about the goals of the bill and the transgender community. I have been inspired by people I have met at these presentations and have learned of the struggles they face yet they possess this amazing amount of courage.

A classmate of mine in graduate school has been very open to talking about her experience and a father who was concerned about his daughter being bullied at school. How human beings choose to express themselves doesn't completely define who they are. Everyone deserves equal rights under the law and people being denied housing and employment opportunities based on their gender identity and expression is wrong.

I will continue to be an ally to the transgender community and I hope the State of Connecticut will not stand for tolerating anything less than fairness and equality for all of its residents.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter,

Laura Saponare

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