

Testimony of Paula Broderick, New Britain resident  
In Support of HB 6599, An Act Concerning Discrimination  
Judiciary Committee, March 21, 2011

My name is Paula Broderick and I am a registered voter in New Britain.

From 2007 to 2010 I had the great fortune to work with Sara who self-identifies as transgender.

Sara's contributions to the program I coordinate were numerous. She developed curriculum to educate the sexual assault and domestic violence communities; helped create and hold the vision of the program; was a speaker for the certification of Crisis Advocates; and a support to the other team members. In other words, Sara was invaluable.

Hiring Sara was an easy decision to make; she had the education, skills, and heart the position required. Working with other people's prejudices and bias was not easy.

The first day Sara came to my office I received a call asking me a question I won't repeat. At one point, I had a temporary supervisor who told me I could only send Sara on a certain type of assignment. I refused to comply with her request. Another time, I received a call from a location where Sara was presenting at; a remark was made that I will not repeat.

Hiring Sara was the smart thing to do. Standing up for her rights was, and is, the decent thing to do.

What I would have liked to have said when confronted by prejudice and bias was, "Sara is protected under the law from discrimination."

In conclusion: I think it is time for the great state of Connecticut to become one of the growing number of states and municipalities that have extended full civil rights to all residents-including transgender residents.

Thank you for your time.

Paula Broderick