

Testimony in Support of HB 6599: An Act Concerning
Discrimination
March 21, 2011

Good morning,

My name is Priscilla. I live in Norwich and I support HB6599. I am a parent of a seven-year-old trans-gendered boy. My son deserves the right of attending school free from fear. He is in second grade and has very strong self esteem. Strong enough to stand up for who he is. What he and all children need are the laws to help our schools provide safe learning environments free from discrimination of any kind.

According to the National Transgender Discrimination Survey children who have expressed a trans-gendered identity or gender non-conformity while in grades k-12 reported alarming rates of harassment 86%, physical assault 38% and sexual violence 14% due to their gender identity/expression.

Harassment was so severe that it led 15% to leave school.

I support my son. The school administration and I are working as a team to ensure that my son receives equal treatment. We are working to ensure that it is a safe place for all students.

It is proven that to help children avoid drugs, alcohol and gang affiliation we need to instill strong self-esteem at an early age and build on it as our children grow. As a parent I am doing my part, as educators the school is doing their part, as law makers it is time to do your part.

My son has, at a minimum, ten years of public schooling ahead of him. The support he receives now will show him how to support others, and when he is an adult male he will be a man of strength, compassion and substance.

In the name of justice and equality for my son and all people in the

Trans gendered community I ask you to add transgender to
HB 6599.

Thank you.