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Regarding: HB 6599: An Act Concerning Discrimination

To the Chairmen and Members of the CT Judiciary Committee

I am a Female to Male Transsexual, who 99.99% of the time simply considers myself to be a man.

I am one of the lucky ones. I have worked for the same employer for almost 20 years, and successfully transitioned from a female gender identity to a male one, keeping my job. I had the great good fortune to have an employer and co-workers who accepted the change smoothly.

However, it is my considered opinion that their acceptance was made easier because I was going from female to male, not male to female. Our society still gives an edge to men as "more valued" than women, despite much progress made by women toward full equality. Our society and our courts have for a while now accepted that women can wear pants and other elements of perceived masculine attire and keep their jobs.

I have personally known Male to Female transsexual persons, in highly technical fields, who were treated by fellow employees as if they had lost half their brains when they transitioned. They most certainly did NOT lose half their brains. What does that say about attitudes to women in those same fields, and genetic women work in them, too? I testified at a school board meeting when another was fired. I did it to show the other face of transgender. She had support from her students and their parents, but the school board had already made up their minds.

I will add here that I am a Roman Army Reenactor. That means I wear "dresses and open toed-sandals" on occasion in public. I am not always in armor. I can get some pretty odd looks.

We, here in Connecticut, have already expanded our Hate Crimes legislation to include gender identity and expression, but that does not protect a person's right to have a job or a place to live. While the CHRO ruling several years back was a help, we need broad anti-discrimination protections with the force of law to include gender identity and expression.

Other people deserve the same good fortune I had and continue to have. We are valuable members of society, with much to contribute as workers and as residents of this state, and don't lose our value due to our gender identity or expression.

I ask that you vote to move this legislation forward as it stands.

Sincerely,

Quinton M. Johansen