

Testimony of Tina R.  
In support of HB 6599, *An Act Concerning Discrimination*  
Judiciary Committee  
March 21, 2011

Dear Senator Coleman, Representative Fox and Judiciary Committee Members,

My name is Tina. I wanted to impress upon you today how important I believe it is that HB 6599: An Act Concerning Discrimination passes. I am female. Born and raised. I have been fortunate enough to never have questioned the gender I was assigned at birth. Nor have I summarily rejected society's insistence that being of that particular gender requires me to look, sound and act a certain way. I am at peace with the gender I was assigned and the trappings that come along with it.

My husband was not. Born female, he spent his entire lifetime attempting to bend his mind to fit into the boxes laid before him by society to conform to the female body he was randomly granted at birth.

After many years of struggle and heartache, like many others before and after him, he finally came to the conclusion that he could no longer be the person he was expected to be and that he would be who he has always felt he should have been. I watched and supported him in this struggle to find his true self.

Now, though I am happy to see the joy he has regained in himself, I must wonder at what future awaits our family because of it. What unforeseen prejudice will lay waste to our livelihoods, self-esteem, self-worth and family structure should we find ourselves at the mercy of someone's narrow-minded world view, and denied access to something because of it?

This bill, however, does not only protect the transgender among us. It protects every tomboy, sensitive boy, experimental teenager, short-haired woman, long-haired man and every other person who casts away the demands that the social order inflicts upon us all.

I realize that there are those that will minimize this important bill to make it about something that is inconsequential and selfish to try to dissuade you from offering the simple protections of safety and fairness in housing, employment and life in general. I ask you today to not be swayed by rhetoric. Instead, I ask you to consider that discrimination of any one, for any reason should never be tolerated. Not in a society such as ours.

I pray that each of you be counted among the forward-thinking leaders that would bring justice to those denigrated by senseless and mean-spirited acts committed against those who would only seek to harmlessly live their lives as they may in a country that purports to guarantee our freedom.

I believe Martin Luther King said it best: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Therefore, we ask only that from you, our appointed representatives. Justice.

Thank you for your time,  
Tina R.  
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