

Re: Testimony in support of HB 6599: An Act Concerning Discrimination

Victoria Flagg

Trumbull, CT

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Victoria Flagg from Trumbull, CT and I am testifying in support of HB 6599, *An Act Concerning Discrimination*. I am an eighth semester senior at the University of Connecticut, and I am passionate about any issues concerning gender identity. I believe that a person should be empowered to express the gender that they feel best exhibits their inner selves and individuality. It's sad that even today people have to worry about job and housing security because they are not accepted or valued. Our society pretends to encourage people to embrace themselves, and embrace the expression of their individuality, but in truth there are very serious and tangible consequences for defying gender norms. Many people who identify as a gender other than the one that society assigns them have lost their jobs because they have not been protected by the law, and many people are in danger of losing housing and not being able to do anything about it. It is bad enough that this economy has put so many people in precarious financial positions, but to be put in more fear of losing security because you need to express who you truly are is deplorable. Everyone should have right to live their lives in a way that guarantees them the most happiness, and I think that everyone can agree that the best way in which to pursue that is to live in a way that supports personal needs and decisions.

This bill is supremely important because Connecticut is too far behind in protecting all of its citizens against discrimination. This is a legitimate issue that seriously affects people who are just trying to live their lives in a way that is most honest to them.