



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
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**RANKING MEMBER**  
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**  
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JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

**Testimony in Support of**  
**House Bill No. 5193, An Act Concerning Health Insurance Coverage for Gender**  
**Reassignment Surgery**  
**Insurance and Real Estate Committee**  
**Tuesday, February 24, 2015**

I would like to thank Chairman Crisco, Chairman Megna, Ranking Member Kelly and the rest of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee for considering H.B. 5193, An Act Concerning Health Insurance Coverage for Gender Reassignment Surgery.

The purpose of this bill is to specify that health insurance policies delivered, issued for delivery, renewed, amended or continued in this state shall not be required to provide coverage for gender reassignment surgery or related surgical expenses.

I initially proposed this bill in response to a bulletin IC-37 released by the State of Connecticut Insurance Department December 19, 2013 which mandated entities issuing individual and group health insurance policies to provide certain types of coverage for gender reassignment surgery. I find this bold action disconcerting because it is the duty of the State of Connecticut General Assembly to make the determination of what health insurance coverage should be mandated and not the Insurance Department. It is also my sincere belief that this issue must be properly vetted through the legislative process.

Notwithstanding the concerns addressed above, this policy raises a whole host of issues that deserve to be heard and reviewed to determine if this should remain the law in our state. For instance, many respected medical professionals claim that this procedure is barbaric and that the established treatment for gender dysphoria is not gender reassignment surgery but rather some type of counseling and/or mental health treatment. We must also consider how to address the many members of the medical community who find gender reassignment surgery objectionable based on their Hippocratic Oath and/or religious beliefs.

Once again, thank you for considering this bill and listening to my testimony. It is my hope that we can come together in support of this legislation.

Robert Sampson,  
State Representative,  
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