

HB-5505 AN ACT CONCERNING THE UPDATING OF STATE FORMS AND APPLICATIONS TO INCLUDE A NONBINARY GENDER OPTION.



Connecticut TransAdvocacy Coalition

P.O. Box 111
Farmington, CT 06034
(860) 255-8812
info@transadvocacy.org
www.transadvocacy.org
CTAC is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit

The Honorable Senator Haskell, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Winkler, Co-Chair
Government Administration and Elections Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2200
Hartford, CT 06106

March 3, 2019

Dear Co-Chairs and Committee Members,

The Connecticut TransAdvocacy Coalition would like to urge you to vote in favor of HB-5505 AN ACT CONCERNING THE UPDATING OF STATE FORMS AND APPLICATIONS TO INCLUDE A NONBINARY GENDER OPTION. The passage of the bill will have a positive effect on the intersex, transgender, and gender nonbinary communities.

When a person enters a state building you have to show a state issued ID or when you apply for a job you have to show proof of citizenship. Can you imagine what you would feel if your ID doesn't match your gender? For nonbinary people they face that every day, having ID that doesn't match their gender presentation creates barriers in employment, housing, education. In a host of common daily interactions it can also create a hostile environment and can also lead to verbal or even physical harassment.

The National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) [2015 transgender survey](#) of over 28,000 transgender individuals found that,

“More than one-third (35%) of respondents indicated that their gender identity was best described as nonbinary or genderqueer, a term often used to describe people whose gender is not exclusively male or female, including those who identify with a gender other than male or female, as more than one gender, or as no gender.”

In passing this law Connecticut would not be a trail blazer, currently, eleven states (Arkansas, California, Colorado, Maine, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Utah, and Washington) and two cities (New York City and Washington, D.C.) are able to list a gender

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neutral option on their IDs and forms. In addition United States District Court for the District of Colorado Judge R. Brooke Jackson has [ordered](#) the State Department to issue a gender-neutral passport.

For more information on gender nonbinary/gender nonconforming people the National Center for Transgender Equality has a webpage "[Understanding Non-Binary People: How to Be Respectful and Supportive.](#)"

As more children and adolescents come out as gender non-conforming or gender neutral it is becoming vital to have a gender neutral option on state IDs and forms. Every Connecticut citizen deserves to be treated with dignity; therefore the Connecticut TransAdvocacy Coalition respectfully asks that the GAE committee vote in favor of HB-5505, thank you.

Sincerely,
Diana Lombardi



Executive Director

Board Members:

Natasha Lombardi -- President

Vu Trans -- Treasurer

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