

Testimony in support of HB 7359 AN ACT CONCERNING A LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUEER HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES NETWORK

March 21, 2019

Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie and honorable members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Crissy Doucette of Waterford, CT. I am the secretary of OutCT and am testifying in support of HB 7359 AN ACT CONCERNING A LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUEER HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES NETWORK.

OutCT is an LBGTQIA Organization that Serves Southeastern CT. OutCT's Mission is building a community through educational, cultural, and social programming that promotes acceptance, tolerance and understanding of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

As a Self Employed individual, I often use services that are offered by community providers. Many of these providers have offered me several services for the most affordable price. In deciding what health provider I choose it is important that I feel comfortable and safe. Health providers that provide the same safety and level of comfort for all Genders, and orientations is extremely important to me. In addition to health services, LGBTQ Youth truly need facilities in which to feel safe and heard, comfortable enough to receive care and educated in the proper practices. The research that will be provided for the creation of a LGBTQ Health and Human Services network will ensure that these services will be adequate and available. Please consider the needs of LGBTQ Youth as the population continues to grow.

I urge the committee to vote favorably in support of HB 7359 to address the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in Connecticut and build a healthier and safer environment for the community. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards

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