

RHB-7359 AN ACT CONCERNING A LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUEER HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES NETWORK



Connecticut TransAdvocacy Coalition

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CTAC is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit

Honorable Senator Marilyn Co-Chair
Honorable Representative Abercrombie Co-Chair
Human Services Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2000
Hartford, CT 06106

March 21, 2019

Dear Co-Chairs and Committee Members,

The Connecticut TransAdvocacy Coalition would like to urge you to vote in favor of RHB-7359 AN ACT CONCERNING A LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUEER HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES NETWORK.

In the [2015 U.S. Transgender Survey](#) of over 28,000 transgender people, it was reported that health disparities for transgender people,

Populations that face widespread stigma and discrimination are more likely to report poor overall health and are more vulnerable to a variety of physical and mental health conditions. Previous research has described substantial health disparities affecting transgender people and the impact that experiences of discrimination, rejection, and violence have on these disparities.

- Twenty-two percent (22%) of respondents rated their health as “fair” or “poor,” compared with 18% of the U.S. population.
- Thirty-nine percent (39%) of respondents were currently experiencing serious psychological distress, nearly eight times the rate in the U.S. population (5%).
- Respondents also encountered high levels of mistreatment when seeking health care. In the year prior to completing the survey, one-third (33%) of those who saw a health care provider had at least one negative experience.
- Nearly one-quarter (23%) of respondents reported that they did not seek the health care they needed in the year prior to completing the survey due to fear of being mistreated as a transgender person

Here in Connecticut there are only a handful of endocrinologist that will treat transgender patients and not every Primary Care Physicians will accept transgender patients. I am constantly being

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asked for "Trans Friendly" healthcare providers. One transgender person that we know slipped and fell on ice, when she was taken by ambulance to a Connecticut hospital she was sent home without them checking her, her doctor the next day found out she had fractured her spine and hip.

The Connecticut TransAdvocacy Coalition (CTAC) was originally founded as It's Time Connecticut in the mid-nineties, in 2004 we changed our name to the CT TransAdvocacy Coalition and then in 2010 we were incorporated as a 501(c)3. CTAC mainly does training around the state; we worked with HUD and other non-profit organizations to train homeless shelters administrators and employees on how to make shelters safe for gender non-conforming individuals.

In conjunction with the Ct Hate Crime Network passed legislation amending the Ct Hate Crime Statutes to include the protected categories: Gender Identity or Expression and Disability; in conjunction with the ctEquality passed legislation amending the Ct Anti-Discrimination Statutes to include the protected categories: Gender Identity or Expression and Disability. In addition as a part of ctEquality we helped pass the birth certificate law, and the law to ban conversion therapy. As a member of the Safe School Coalition CTAC helped write the "[Guidelines for Schools on Gender Identity and Expression](#)" and worked to insure that the Anti-Bullying legislation law covered gender identity and expression. Some of the agencies that we have done worked with or done training for are DMHAS, Department of Corrections, Windham Judicial District GA #11, and we are working with the State Unit On Aging: Long Term Care Ombudsman Program to bring about a more inclusive long term care facilities.

We ask that the Human Services Committee pass RHB-7359. This bill is an important step the legislature and our government can take to invest and address the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in our state. In a time when the Federal administration is actively discriminating against the Transgender community it is critical our state government does all that they can to build a healthier and safer environment for our community. Thank you for your consideration of this timely and important legislation.

Sincerely,
Diana Lombardi



Executive Director

Board Members:
Natasha Lombardi -- President
Vu Trans -- Treasurer
Joleen Nevers
Lynne Alexander