

Testimony in support of:
House Bill 7359: An Act Concerning a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Health and Human Services Network.

Submitted by:
Britta Shute, APRN, FNP-BC
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Dear Committee on Human Services,

My name is Britta Shute and I am a Family Nurse Practitioner at UConn Health Center. I started my career at Fenway Community Health Center in Boston, one of the premier LGBTQ+ health centers in the country. During my time there I was trained on specific health interventions for LGBTQ, and now that I am established at UConn Health I am considered an expert in the field. I see patients in our Canton Family Medicine Primary Care site and lecture frequently on needs and health interventions of LGBTQ peoples.

Since starting at UConn health two years ago, my panel has grown to count more than 200 LGBTQ identified patients, many of whom drive over an hour because they have researched my credentials and do not have access to competent care closer to home. There are numerous studies and surveys which document the health disparities of LGBTQ people, the most important of which being the 2015 National Transgender Survey by the UCLA William's Institute in which 23% of patients responded that they avoided general medical care when needed because of fear of discrimination. Access to lifesaving treatments such as PrEP to prevent HIV infection or hormones to augment medical transition is even harder for patients to locate.

This bill is an important first step in addressing health disparities of LGBTQ identified Connecticut residents by growing data related to individuals' current health and service needs in order to identify strategies for correcting disparities by informing state policy.

I urge you to support House Bill 7359 to build a safer and healthier Connecticut for LGBTQ people. Thank you for your consideration.

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