



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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March 19, 2021

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF H.B. 5654, AN ACT CONCERNING THE UPDATING OF STATE FORMS, APPLICATIONS, AND METHODS OF IDENTIFICATION TO INCLUDE A NONBINARY GENDER OPTION

To the Chairs, Vice Chairs, Ranking Members and members of the Government Administration and Elections committee,

Thank you for affording me the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 5654. This legislation represents a small but significant step towards ensuring that Connecticut state services are not only equally accessible to all residents of any gender, but that there is the opportunity for all to be represented on any public facing forms. Much of the language in our law is cisheteronormative in nature and isolating to people of nonconforming gender identity. Nonbinary people are entitled to an appropriate reflection of their identity on state forms.

I want to thank the Office of Policy & Management, specifically Danielle Palladino, for their willingness to work with Rep. David Michel and me in an effort to move the intent of this legislation forward. While we understand there are potential barriers to completing this task, we hope that through ongoing dialogue, we will find a way to overcome these obstacles.

This bill is a measure towards dismantling systemic discrimination faced by nonbinary people. Gender based discrimination and violence are ongoing issues and we have an opportunity to ensure that our state respects the identities of people outside cisgender norms. We owe it to our constituents to break down additional barriers for gender nonconforming people. Gender identity is not up for debate, and validating these identities is not a courtesy. We cannot allow our constituents to continue to be misrepresented by incorrect, outdated forms.

HB 5654 corrects a key component of the state's systemic gender equality problem. It is time that we move forward and recognize nonbinary citizens within our official documents.

Sincerely,

Jeff Currey
State Representative
Serving Connecticut's 11th District