



TESTIMONY OF GLBTQ LEGAL ADVOCATES & DEFENDERS
In Support of Senate Bill 295, An Act Concerning State Law Protections for Health
Care Providers and Patients Related to the Provision of a Legally Protected Health
Care Activity
Judiciary Committee
March 2, 2026

Dear Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Hannah Hussey, and I am a Staff Attorney at GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD Law). GLAD Law is New England’s leading legal rights organization dedicated to ensuring equality for LGBTQ people and people living with HIV. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of S.B. 295, An Act Concerning State Law Protections for Health Care Providers and Patients Related to the Provision of a Legally Protected Health Care Activity.

GLAD Law appreciates Connecticut’s leadership on reproductive and transgender healthcare, including through passing the first shield law in the country to protect patients and providers. S.B. 295 would strengthen this law through important updates, adding new layers of protection for providers whose work is critical to maintaining access to essential and medically necessary healthcare.

The legal landscape for abortion providers and transgender health providers is shifting rapidly, in ways that have consequences for Connecticut. Recent years have seen a coordinated political effort – increasingly backed by federal action – to restrict, criminalize, and ultimately eliminate access to healthcare services that people need to thrive. That effort does not respect state lines.

Ongoing litigation underscores the urgency of strengthening Connecticut’s shield law to the fullest extent. In 2025, a New York-based abortion provider was indicted by another state’s authorities and faced an extradition request after allegedly prescribing medication abortion to a patient – identified by her name on a prescription label. A California provider has faced similar legal action. In both cases, the physicians were providing legal care under their own states’ laws. When the governors of both states refused extradition, they did so relying on their shield laws.

S.B. 295 would further enshrine Connecticut's commitment to a core principle: that the state will not allow political interference, wherever it originates, to come between patients, families, and doctors. As other states increasingly impose barriers to medically necessary care, or ban it altogether, it is vital that Connecticut do all it can to ensure that providers are able to offer the essential care on which their patients depend.

GLAD Law respectfully urges this committee to support S.B. 295 to safeguard our healthcare providers and the patients who depend on them.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hannah Hussey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Hannah" and last name "Hussey" clearly distinguishable.

Hannah Hussey
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