



Board of Directors

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As the embedded attorney in a pediatric gender program, I have seen firsthand the difficult decisions families face when they are forced to travel, and at times relocate, to receive essential medical care. When access to life-saving medical care is on the line, families must choose between jobs, community ties, and financial stability and their children's future. But many low income families cannot afford to take time off work or the expenses incurred by frequent travel or relocation. We must make sure our health care providers have the protections necessary to serve patients who most critically need access to health care services but who do not have the means to appear in person. SB 295 would align Connecticut's telehealth protections with states like California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington .

CCA strongly urge s the Judiciary Committee and CT General Assembly to support S.B. 295. By further bolstering Connecticut's Reproductive Freedom Defense Act and our state 's shield protections with these added provisions for telehealth providers, Connecticut will be able to offer a critical layer of defense for its dedicated and compassionate reproductive health care workforce seeking to respond to the national public health emergency that is our post- *Roe* reality.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important bill.

Sincerely,
Mallory Sanchez
Staff Attorney, LGBTQ Youth Advocacy Project
Center for Children's Advocacy