



State of Connecticut

DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

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Testimony of Christine Perra Rapillo, Chief Public Defender Judiciary Committee – March 29, 2019

S.B. 792, An Act Creating An Advisory Committee To Study Discrimination On The Basis of Gender Identity or Expression That Occurs In Workplaces and Schools In The State

The Office of Chief Public Defender supports **S.B. 792, An Act Creating An Advisory Committee To Study Discrimination On The Basis Of Gender Identity Or Expression That Occurs In Workplaces And Schools In The State**. Everyone is entitled to equal protection under the law. Subsection (21) of C.G.S. §46a-51 defines gender identity or expression as follows:

(21) "Gender identity or expression" means a person's gender-related identity, appearance or behavior, whether or not that gender-related identity, appearance or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the person's physiology or assigned sex at birth, which gender-related identity can be shown by providing evidence including, but not limited to, medical history, care or treatment of the gender-related identity, consistent and uniform assertion of the gender-related identity or any other evidence that the gender-related identity is sincerely held, part of a person's core identity or not being asserted for an improper purpose.

Discrimination based upon gender identity or expression has been prohibited by law in this state since 2011. See *P.A. 11-55, An Act Concerning Discrimination*. This office supports a review of the current anti-discrimination laws pertaining to gender identify or expression and a determination as to whether enhancements should be made to the existing statutes to assure the equal treatment and safety of this protected class of individuals.