

## Steven Sepe

---

**From:** Krystal B <kryb789@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 1, 2025 12:04 AM  
**To:** House State Government and Elections Committee  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of Bill 6125, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY

The Honorable Representative Evan P. Shanley House State Government and Elections Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairperson Shanely, and members of the House State Government and Elections Committee,

My name is Krystal Brunelle and I am a student in Providence, Rhode Island, at Rhode Island College. I am writing in strong support of House Bill 6125.

House Bill 6125 is simply a resolution that acknowledges that Rhode Island stands firmly behind the belief that every human being has the right to love freely and live their lives openly as who they are. This bill is not and should not be considered controversial. LGBTQIA+ people, people of color, and particularly trans women of color, face greater disparities in the areas of health, housing, and criminal justice and are many times more likely to be the victims of fatal violence. We have the duty to all that we can to protect Rhode Islanders.

As someone who is part of the LGBTQIA+ community, all I want myself is to be accepted. This time of uncertainty and fear that plaques the community sits in me everyday, and the resolution would offer Rhode Island a breath of fresh air.

Over the past few years, we have seen unrelenting escalating political attacks against the LGBTQIA+ community. The new presidential administration has been unwavering in its commitment to a systematic erasure campaign of the transgender and queer communities with the signing of many executive orders and support for limiting basic freedoms for these individuals. We need to stand strong as a state that prides itself on protection and equality for all its citizens.

My friend, who is transgender, feels ill with stress from these attacks because they are scared of what is going to happen to them. They feel insecure in their safety and it manifests physically, making it hard to go about their life.

This resolution is not about granting "special rights" it is about ensuring basic human rights. It is about affirming that all residents, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation, deserve the same freedoms and protections as their fellow citizens. When we protect LGBTQ+ individuals from discrimination, we strengthen our communities, our economy, and our values of fairness and inclusion.

Under the Trump administration, a series of executive orders and policy changes have directly targeted LGBTQ+ rights, rapidly rolling back progress and protections. Some examples of these actions include:

- The transgender military ban, which reversed an Obama-era policy allowing transgender individuals to serve openly.
- The rollback of healthcare protections, allowing providers to deny care to LGBTQ+ individuals under the guise of religious freedom.
- Attacks on workplace protections, including attempts to limit protections for LGBTQ+ employees under the Title VII of the Civil Rights Act.

- Efforts to erase transgender identities from federal policies, including defining gender strictly based on biological sex at birth.

These actions demonstrated just how quickly rights can be stripped away when they are not firmly protected by law. Executive orders can be reversed with the stroke of a pen, but legislation provides lasting protections that cannot be undone by a change in administration.

Without clear, enforceable state-level protections, LGBTQ+ individuals remain vulnerable to discrimination in employment, housing, healthcare, and public services.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. I strongly encourage you to quickly vote to pass this resolution, HB 6125, to be clear in your commitment to ensuring that all Rhode Islanders have the same rights and protections, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression.

I urge you to vote in favor of this resolution and to affirm that equality is not a privilege—it is a right. Thank you for your time and considering this important step forward for Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

Krystal Brunelle  
Providence, Rhode Island.