

April 3, 2025

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

My name is Allie Scheer and I am a resident of Cranston, Rhode Island. 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 do all that we can to protect all Rhode Islanders.

As a social worker, and member of the LGBTQIA+ community myself, I believe this resolution will play an important role in helping a vulnerable population have an increased sense of safety, and belonging, in our state. Safety and belonging are major contributors to a person's health and wellbeing.

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.

The LGBTQIA+ community is scared right now. People are experiencing increased harassment and discrimination. 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.

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.

Sincerely,

Allie Scheer, LICSW

Cranston RI