

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

**Re: In support of Bill 6125, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE  
LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY**

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

My name is Damian Lima and I am a resident of Providence, Rhode Island. I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 6125, which continues Rhode Island's legacy as a leader in protecting and advancing the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals. At a time when federal policies and state-level attacks across the country seek to undermine the dignity, safety, and legal protections of LGBTQIA+ people, Rhode Island must reaffirm its commitment to equality and justice by passing this critical legislation.

Rhode Island has long been a trailblazer in safeguarding LGBTQIA+ rights. From being one of the first states to legalize same-sex marriage to implementing strong non-discrimination protections, our state has consistently led by example in fostering an inclusive and affirming environment. However, progress is never guaranteed, and in light of growing efforts at the national level to roll back protections—whether through attacks on transgender healthcare, education censorship, or the erosion of workplace and housing rights—it is essential that Rhode Island fortify its commitment to the LGBTQIA+ community.

House Bill 6125 is a necessary step to ensure that LGBTQIA+ individuals in Rhode Island, particularly transgender and nonbinary people like me, are protected from discrimination and harm. The passage of this bill would send a powerful message that Rhode Island stands unwavering in its defense of human rights, even as others seek to strip them away. It would provide a much-needed safeguard against the increasing hostility faced by LGBTQIA+ individuals and ensure that our state remains a safe haven for those whose rights are under attack elsewhere.

I urge you and your colleagues to support House Bill 6125 and continue Rhode Island's proud tradition of leadership in LGBTQIA+ rights. Thank you for your time and your commitment to equality and justice. I look forward to seeing Rhode Island continue to stand on the right side of history.