



TESTIMONY OF GLBTQ LEGAL ADVOCATES & DEFENDERS
In Support of House Resolution 6125
House Committee on State Government & Elections

Dear Chair Shanley, First Vice Chair Messier, Second Vice Chair Corvese, and honorable members of the House Committee on State Government & Elections:

My name is Patience Crozier, Director of Family Advocacy at GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD Law). I am writing in support of H6125.

As you know, GLAD Law is New England's leading legal rights organization dedicated to ensuring equality for LGBTQ people and people living with HIV. As GLAD Law's liaison to Rhode Island, I have been grateful to work in this State since 2016 to support efforts to ensure a thriving community for all Rhode Islanders, including LGBTQ people and people living with HIV.

I have witnessed Rhode Island's deep commitment to fairness and equality for all people, including the pride in being the second state, in 2001, to comprehensively include transgender people in the state nondiscrimination laws. Rhode Island recognizes that LGBTQ people are vital parts of families, schools, and communities across the state. This Legislature has taken thoughtful steps to include LGBTQ people in our shared goal of building a thriving state, and I trust that this work will continue.

This Resolution is vital in this moment of uncertainty and attacks – particularly on our transgender and non-binary community members. With simplicity and directness, it notes Rhode Island's proud tradition of protecting and respecting LGBTQ community members and proclaims the Legislatures ongoing commitment to embracing the LGBTQ community and continuing to work for fairness for all.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this Resolution, and GLAD Law hopes this Resolution will move forward.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized capital letter 'P' followed by a long horizontal line that tapers to the right.

Patience Crozier
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