



April 2, 2025

Dear Representatives,

I am the Reverend Sarah Reed Jay, Senior Pastor of the Community Church of Providence and a member of the Rhode Island State Council of Churches. I am writing **in support of House Resolution H6125**.

As a pastor in the American Baptist tradition, we hold the belief that all people are created in the image of God, which includes the members of the LGBTQIA+ community. We treasure and celebrate these individuals and listen to their self-understanding, acknowledging their freedom and human right to this self-understanding and expression and to live without fear of discrimination, harassment, or prejudice.

The LGBTQIA+ community is an integral part of our church's congregation and leadership. Their deep faith and struggle for full acceptance has instructed us into being more faithful followers of Jesus.

As a pastor, I am especially concerned about the threats to Rhode Island's transgender and nonbinary individuals, who deserve the freedom to be themselves without fear of repercussion or exclusion.

For these reasons, **I am for House Resolution H6125** and encourage you to support it as well.

Sincerely,

The Reverend Sarah Reed Jay
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