



Legislative Testimony
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Written Testimony Supporting House Bill 6866, An Act Concerning the Updating of State Forms and Applications to Include a Nonbinary Gender Option

Senator Flexer, Representative Blumenthal, Ranking Members Sampson and Mastrofrancesco, and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

My name is Jess Zaccagnino, and I am the policy counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT). I am writing to testify House Bill 6866, An Act Concerning the Updating of State Forms and Applications to Include a Nonbinary Gender Option.

The ACLU-CT is dedicated to ensuring that LGBTQ+ people can live openly and freely, with full rights, personal autonomy, and freedom of expression and association. Because of systemic inequity, transgender, intersex, and nonbinary people in particular face many barriers in many areas of life. Ensuring that state forms and IDs are inclusive of gender-neutral pronouns ensure that transgender, intersex, and nonbinary people can travel, apply for jobs, and enter public establishments with less risk of harassment or harm.¹ An accurate ID can also make or break an encounter with the police. Nationwide, 68 percent of transgender people reported that none of their forms of identification listed their correct name and gender.² Having access to an accurate ID is even lifesaving: one survey found a sharp reduction in suicide attempts for transgender and nonbinary people who had even

¹ *They the People: Accurate Gender Markers for All*, ACLU (Aug. 23, 2021), <https://www.aclu.org/news/topic/they-the-people-accurate-gender-markers-for-all>.

² *Id.*

one document that accurately conveyed their gender identity.³ House Bill 6866 is commonsense and life-saving. The ACLU-CT supports this bill, and urges this Committee to do the same.

³ Greta R. Bauer, et al., *Intervenable Factors Associated with Suicide Risk in Transgender Persons: A Respondent Driven Sampling Study in Ontario, Canada*, BMC PUB. HEALTH (2015), <https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-015-1867-2>.