



Legislative Testimony  
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**Written Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 388,  
An Act Concerning A Person's Intersex Status or Characteristics**

Senator Abrams, Representative Steinberg, and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee:

My name is David McGuire, and I am executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT). I am submitting this testimony in support of Senate Bill 388, An Act Concerning A Person's Intersex Status or Characteristics. As a member of the CT Equality Coalition, the ACLU-CT supports the rights promoted in this bill.

Individuals possessing intersex traits are subject to discrimination throughout all areas of their lives. Individuals that do not conform to traditional expectations regarding gender can be blocked from single-gender spaces, such as bathrooms, and face significant discrimination in sports, where hormone levels or other metrics used to determine gender leave out gender nonconforming individuals. This bill would protect those individuals from discrimination, extending current protections against discrimination based on sex to all individuals.

Individuals with intersex traits are frequently subject to medically unnecessary and irreversible surgeries as infants or children. These surgeries are done in an attempt to make the individuals have more "normal" bodies, justified as an attempt to protect the individuals from the stigma of having a body that does not conform to traditional expectations. They are carried out before the individual has the ability to consent to the procedure. This bill would prohibit licensed health care providers from providing such surgeries without the individual's consent, which is necessary to protect the physical autonomy and healthcare rights of all intersex individuals.

The addition of a third gender option on state and personal identification documents would free individuals with intersex traits from being forced to choose between genders with which

they do not identify. By passing this bill, Connecticut would follow in the footsteps of nearby New York City, as well as Washington, D.C.; Oregon; Washington; and California, which all afford a third option for gender on state documentation, personal identification records, or both. It would allow individuals with intersex characteristics to navigate governmental and other systems with the same ease as all other Connecticut residents.

We strongly encourage the committee to support Senate Bill 388.