

I am writing this letter as a resident and registered voter in the state of Connecticut. I am addressing the appropriations bill HB no. 6439.

I am a member of the Connecticut's LGBT+ community and am writing in regards to line item in the bill with regards to the funding of the Commission for Human Rights and Opportunities. As a member of this community we face much potential discrimination from homophobia and transphobia that exists in our state as well as elsewhere. We face discrimination often in housing, employment, commerce, and medical care, often subject to harassment and violence for simply who we are. The Commission on Human Rights is crucial for vulnerable members of our community and other communities. I have just begun to transition at a time where Transgender people have become a political football at the national level and a spotlight by the media raises fears that we will gain the ire of a larger sector of the populace this increases the danger for people like me and others in the LGBT+ community. The Commission for Human Rights and Opportunities is a crucial element of protection marginal individuals like myself who may face increased harassment, violence, and discrimination. I am asking legislators to commit increased funding of this important agency for marginalized communities in the line item for the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities.

Sincerely Peter (Paige) McLoughlin