

Talking About Public Accommodations

Background In 2011, we passed a historic bill that protects transgender people in the areas of credit/lending, housing, public education, and employment. “Gender identity” was also added to the hate crimes statute. **However, protections in public spaces were excluded from the bill!** A transgender person cannot be denied employment at a local restaurant because of his/her/their gender identity, but could be denied service as a customer!

Why Do We Need This Law?

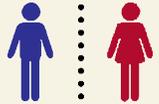
- 1 To End Confusion**
 - ✓ Businesses will not have to deal with the inconsistency between protections in employment, but not in public spaces
 - ✓ **Example:** A transgender person working at a doctor’s office will not have to worry about being denied care as a patient because of their identity
- 2 To Ensure We Are All Treated Equally**
 - ✓ Keeping the law as is sends the message to the general public that it is okay to deny services to transgender people
 - ✓ **Example:** A gay couple checking into a hotel cannot be denied service, but a transgender person can be asked to leave based on their gender identity and/or expression
- 3 To Improve Our Shared Quality of Life**
 - ✓ Transgender people will have the peace of mind in knowing that they have legal protections in public spaces and are supported by the same laws that protect so many others
 - ✓ **Example:** Transgender people will not have to censor themselves or avoid public places for fear of being kicked out or harassed by business owners or employees



peace
of mind

How We Know the Law Will Work

- ✓ Since 2012, Massachusetts’ schools have been required to provide transgender students with access to restrooms and locker rooms that match their gender identity. There have been no reported incidents of indecent behavior by transgender students since this policy has been implemented.
- ✓  Planet Fitness, a national gym franchise with more than 900 locations across the country, has successfully implemented trans-friendly locker room policies for its facilities with no substantiated reports of misbehavior on the part of transgender clients.



And if the Law Stays the Same?

- ✓ A 2014 study states that transgender people who reported being discriminated against in public are **84 percent more likely** to experience adverse physical effects (headaches, muscle tension and upset stomach) and **99 percent more likely** to experience emotional effects (frustration, anger, sadness)
- ✓ The same study reports that discrimination in public spaces increases the likelihood of a transgender person forgoing medical care and seeking treatment for health problems

