

Dear Senator William Brownsberger and Representative David Rogers,

My name is Rebecca Conley and I live at 35 Trapello Road in Belmont with my partner and two roommates. I am a librarian and a member of the Belmont/Watertown Amnesty International chapter.

I am writing to urge you to support ***An Act Relative to Equal Access in Hospitals, Public Transportation, Nursing Homes, Supermarkets, Retail Establishments, and all other places open to the public***, introduced in the House by Representatives Carl Sciortino and Byron Rushing and in the Senate by Senator Ben Downing and Sonia Chang-Diaz. This proposed law would prohibit discrimination in places of public accommodations such as hospitals, stores, libraries, and polling places.

I believe this bill is important because I feel that Massachusetts has a responsibility to provide equal access and protections to all citizens under the law. As someone who values fairness and equality, I want to live in a state where everyone knows that they are safe to access emergency rooms, polling places, bus stations, and other places of public accommodations without fear of experiencing violence or discrimination on the basis of their gender identity/expression.

With the passage of this law, Massachusetts would send a clear message to its citizens that all people are entitled to feel safe in their communities and to be offered the full protection of the law, regardless of their gender identity or expression.

By offering protection in places of public accommodation where people experience harassment and discrimination, this law would increase productivity, freedom and safety for transgender youth and adults who are employees, consumers, residents and students.

Please help Massachusetts join the many communities, including the states of Rhode Island, Vermont, and Maine, which already provide protection in places of public accommodation on the basis of gender identity and/or expression.

The passing of this bill would make me even prouder to be from Massachusetts.

Respectfully,  
Rebecca Conley