

**Testimony Concerning HB 1010**  
**“Health Care Facilities – Discrimination (LGBTQ Senior Bill of Rights)”**  
**Submitted to The House Health and Government Operations Committee**  
**March 5, 2020**

**Position: Support**

Dear Health and Government Operations Committee,

Fear of disrespect, discrimination, and even violence prevents some LGBTQ seniors from seeking care at long term care facilities, even when they require that level of care. This fact has been demonstrated in the documentary film Gen Silent, as well as in the limited research that exists on the topic. In my work at Chse Breston, I have also heard personal testimony of LGBT elders who have serious concerns about how they might be treated if they need to enter such a care facility. Some remain in independent living situations longer than is safe due to these fears.

Just last week, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine published a robust report on the health effects of social isolation and loneliness in older adults. This study highlights that older adults from marginalized communities such as those who are LGBTQ are at increased risk of the ill effects of social isolation and loneliness. Those LGBTQ seniors who opt to remain in the living independently rather than seeking more appropriate care due to fears of mistreatment are at increased risk of poor health outcomes and increased morbidity and mortality.

HB1010 will address the concerns of the LGBT community by requiring care facilities to adhere to appropriate gender affirming care principles. It is a right that this marginalized community deserves as they age.

I urge you to support House Bill 1010 to protect LGBTQ seniors from discrimination.

Thank you for your consideration,



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