

**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,

My name is Theodore Tinnell; I am a masters level nursing student at Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing. I write to you in enthusiastic support of House Bill 1010.

Prior to beginning nursing school, I worked as a Health Education Trainer at the LGBTQ+ Center of Excellence at Denver Health. In my work at Denver Health as well as in my four semesters of clinical rotations as a nursing student I have personally witnessed discrimination against LGBTQ+ seniors within healthcare facilities. Simultaneously, I have participated in advocacy, led trainings, and written hospital-wide policy to protect LGBTQ+ people. In other words, I have experienced both the devastating consequences of when LGBTQ+ seniors are unprotected and the healing impact of anti-discrimination advocacy.

Currently, I work with LGBTQ+ seniors at Chase Brexton. Each Tuesday, I meet with three seniors and we discuss everything under the sun. Each Tuesday, I hear stories of the discrimination and violence LGBTQ+ seniors face navigating the world. The people that I speak with are resilient, ingenious people who have persevered through decades of the hardship and joy that has come with their LGBTQ+ identities. As a younger, 29-year-old LGBTQ+ identified person, I cannot express the value of these conversations. And by extension, I cannot express the value of a bill such as this – that seeks to protect LGBTQ seniors in the exact ways they have verbalized to me that they are discriminated against.

I appreciate the work that you do and I urge you to support House Bill 1010 to protect LGBTQ seniors from discrimination. Thank you for your consideration.