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***TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF: HB 6913 AN ACT CONCERNING LGBTQ+ DISCRIMINATION IN
LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES***

Greetings Senator Hochadel, Representative Garibay, Senator Hwang, Representative Bolinsky, and members of the Aging Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 6913 An Act Concerning LGBTQ+ Discrimination in Long-Term Facilities.

Throughout 2023 and 2024, my office convened a “Healthcare Cabinet,” which brought key policymakers, stakeholders, practitioners, and advocates together to discuss healthcare challenges facing various demographic populations across Connecticut. The cabinet was made up of subcommittees based on those population groups who sought solutions to these challenges, which include potential legislation or restructuring current efforts.

The LGBTQIA+ Subcommittee prioritized the establishment of a Senior Bill of Rights this session, recognizing the urgent need to protect LGBTQ+ seniors from discrimination as they age. Every senior in Connecticut deserves to age with dignity, respect, and the assurance that they will receive equitable care regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. This bill is a critical step toward ensuring that LGBTQ+ individuals in long-term care facilities are treated fairly, free from stigma and bias.

Discrimination in long-term care settings has long been a concern for LGBTQ+ seniors, who often face barriers to accessing competent and affirming care. Many have lived through decades of societal prejudice, and without legal protections, they remain vulnerable to mistreatment in the very facilities meant to provide them with safety and support. Massachusetts, a peer state, has already taken legislative action to address these disparities, and Connecticut must follow suit to uphold our commitment to fairness and equality.

By passing HB 6913, we affirm that every senior in our state, regardless of who they are or whom they love, deserves to age in an environment that respects their identity and safeguards their well-being. I urge this committee to support this bill and stand with our LGBTQ+ elders who have paved the way for progress and equality.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

All the best,

Sean Scanlon
State Comptroller