



MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA)

(S.1047/A.747)

The Partnership for New York City represents the city's business leaders and largest private sector employers. We work together with government, labor and the nonprofit sector to maintain the city's position as the preeminent global center of commerce, innovation and economic opportunity.

We urge the New York Legislature to enact (S.1047/A.747) to prohibit discrimination based on gender identity or expression. New York's position as a global economic and cultural hub is due in large part to the rich diversity of our citizens and workforce. It is incumbent on the state, its employers and institutions to support, foster and protect that diversity.

Unfortunately, New York is falling behind other states and the private sector when it comes to gender protections. Currently, gender variant individuals can and do face discrimination ranging from housing to health care, as well as harassment and violence in many aspects of their lives. It is a moral and economic imperative that they should enjoy the basic freedoms and rights that all New Yorkers have.

GENDA is not a new policy; California, Connecticut, Iowa, Nevada and New Jersey have already enacted this important safeguard of basic human and civil rights. Moreover, many of our largest employers already have protections for gender variant individuals. It's time for the state to act.

We commend Assemblymember Gottfried and Senator Hoylman for leading efforts to enact GENDA and encourage the legislature to move quickly to adopt this legislation. Thank you for your consideration.