

2017 FEB 23 P 3:12 2017 FEB

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

DANNEL P. MALLOY

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 56

WHEREAS, the protection of citizens from discrimination is an essential role of government;

WHEREAS, Connecticut has become a national leader in protecting civil rights by enacting numerous laws that protect against discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression;

WHEREAS, the Connecticut State Department of Education has previously issued guidance to school districts to ensure that our schools provide safe, supportive and non-discriminatory learning environments for all students;

WHEREAS, such previous state guidance was issued partially on the basis of federal guidance, interpreting federal law, that has since been withdrawn;

WHEREAS, Connecticut law mandates that public schools be open to all children, and that such children have an equal opportunity to participate in school activities without regard to their gender identity or expression;

WHEREAS, a school's failure to accommodate a student's asserted gender identity or expression is subject to enforcement action by the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities;

WHEREAS, Connecticut law provides greater protections for transgender people than federal law, making clear that no person shall be discriminated against because of their gender identity or expression;

WHEREAS, state law prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender identity or expression in all areas, including employment, public accommodations, housing, credit, and education;

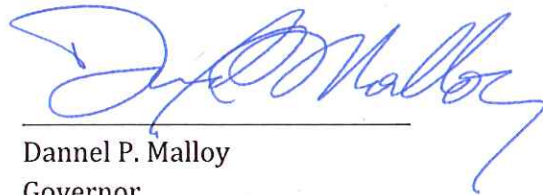
WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State of Connecticut and my administration to promote fairness and equality and to combat discrimination at all levels and to respect diversity within our State;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DANNEL P. MALLOY, Governor of the State of Connecticut, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and by the Statutes of the State of Connecticut do hereby **ORDER AND DIRECT**:

1. Bathrooms and locker rooms in public schools and institutions of higher education shall be considered places of public accommodation; therefore, discrimination based on sex, including gender identity or expression, in such places is prohibited by Connecticut law; and
2. The State Department of Education, in consultation with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, shall develop and present to the State Board of Education guidance to school districts consistent with Connecticut law on policies that allow student's access to school facilities in a manner consistent with a student's gender identity or expression; and
3. The Board of Regents and the University of Connecticut, in consultation with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, shall develop and present to the respective Boards of Trustees policies consistent with Connecticut law that allow student's access to school facilities in a manner consistent with a student's gender identity or expression.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut this 23rd day of February, 2017.


Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

By His Excellency's Order



Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State

