

From: Mahony, Elizabeth (SEN)

Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2011 9:39 AM

To: Donnelly, Kenneth (SEN); Eldridge, James (SEN); DiDomenico, Sal (SEN); Wolf, Daniel (SEN); Clark, Katherine (SEN)

Cc: Grogan, Kathryn (SEN); Threadgill, Melissa (SEN); Morrill, Micaelah (SEN); Cullen, Kristen (SEN); DeGuglielmo, Walter (SEN); Adam, Katherine N. (SEN); Steiner, Bethann (SEN); Avitzur, Michael (SEN)

Subject: Transgender Equal Rights

Dear Senators-

As many of you have heard, the Judiciary Committee is polling an amended version of the Transgender Equal Rights bill today. The Committee draft will extend discrimination protections for employment, housing, credit, and hate crimes to individuals based on gender identity. The Transgender Equal Rights Coalition worked with the Judiciary Chair to make language changes that tighten the scope and definitions of the bill. The Coalition is happy to see progress and movement.

The bill is likely to be taken up in the next two days. As you have been a strong supporter of the bill this session, Senators Downing and Chang-Diaz hope that you will continue to be a vocal advocate for the transgender community. There are 16 Senate co-sponsors (see list below) and we have indication of support from other colleagues of support. We hope that as you are in caucus and session over the next few days, you will be able to speak with colleagues to firm up support of the bill.

Additionally, there may be support in the Senate to amend the bill to put the public accommodations sections back in the bill. Please consider supporting this effort and let Sen. Downing or Sen. Chang-Diaz know if you confirmed other colleague's support for such a move.

Please let myself or Katherine Adam ([617.722.1673](tel:617.722.1673)) know if you have any questions or updates on this important bill.

Elizabeth Mahony
Office of Sen. Ben Downing

Senate Co-sponsors:

Senators Chandler, Chang-Diaz, Clark, Creem, DiDomenico, Donnelly, Donoghue, Downing, Eldridge, Fargo, Jehlen, McGee, Petruccelli, Rosenberg, Spilka, and Wolf.