



Long Island Housing Services, Inc.

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February 27, 2018

The Honorable John J. Flanagan
New York State Senate
Room 330
State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator Flanagan:

Since 2003, New York State Transgender & Gender Non-Conforming citizens and their allies have continued the work to pass the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act, better known as GENDA. As you are aware, GENDA would broaden the protections afforded all citizens of New York by adding to the protected classes in the state's human rights law the words "gender identity and expression". GENDA would also add protections against discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations, bringing us equality with all New Yorkers.

GENDA has been introduced into each of the past 15 legislative sessions in New York. However, in not one of these years has this important legislation been brought to the Senate floor for a vote. **The failure to protect all New Yorkers equally under law is an injustice that continues wrongful continued discrimination.**

GENDA must be brought to the Senate floor this session. We demand that you to do so. We expect you to do the right thing for all New Yorkers by joining the 19 states that have already passed strong protections for citizens regardless of gender. If states like Utah and Iowa can protect all their citizens, it is an embarrassment that New York cannot achieve equality and protect its most vulnerable citizens.

It is time to get GENDA to the floor of the Senate and passed now!

Sincerely,

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A 501 (c) (3),
not-for-profit,
Fair Housing
agency serving
Long Islanders
since 1969.

*Our mission is the elimination of unlawful housing discrimination
and promotion of decent and affordable housing through advocacy and education.*