



RNAO

Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario
L'Association des infirmières et infirmiers
autorisés de l'Ontario

Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

December 21, 2009

Dear Premier,

The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) was delighted by the introduction of Bill 224, Toby's Act (Right to be Free from Discrimination and Harassment Because of Gender Identity), as a Private Members Bill on November 19, 2009. As recommended by the Ontario Human Rights Commission,¹ Bill 224 would amend the Ontario Human Rights Code to include gender identity as a prohibited ground of protection.

Premier, we urge our government to support Bill 224 so that it moves beyond First Reading to eventual Royal Assent. Ontario's registered nurses see this amendment as an important way to address discrimination that threatens health, well-being, and access to health care. Ensuring that the human rights of all Ontarians are protected is not only the just thing to do but it will also contribute to building a stronger, more vibrant community where all people are respected.

In case it might be useful, attached please find RNAO's position statement on respecting sexual orientation and gender identity. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we may be of assistance on this issue.

With warmest regards,

Doris Grinspun, RN, MSN, PhD(c), O.ONT.
Executive Director, RNAO

Copy to: Honourable Chris Bentley, Attorney General
Dianne Roedding, Co-Chair, Rainbow Nursing Interest Group
Judith MacDonnell, Co-Chair, Rainbow Nursing Interest Group
Susan Gapka, Chair, Trans Health Lobby Group
Anna Travers, Rainbow Health Ontario

¹ Ontario Human Rights Commission (2008). *Right at Home: Report on the consultation on human rights and rental housing in Ontario*. Toronto: Author, 89.