



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Hon. Stephanie A. Miner, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: June 16, 2014

CONTACT: Alexander Marion
Press Secretary (315) 448-8044

MINER URGES NY SENATE TO PASS GENDA IN FINAL WEEK OF SESSION

*Miner Calls Majority Coalition Leader Dean Skelos to Bring GENDA
for a Vote*

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – Mayor Stephanie A. Miner today sent a letter to New York State Senate Majority Coalition Leader Dean G. Skelos urging him to bring the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA) for a full vote. Mayor Miner made this announcement at the annual LGBT pride flag raising ceremony at City Hall.

“GENDA is an important bill that will protect the rights of transgender New Yorkers and it deserves to be passed in this legislative session,” said **Syracuse Mayor Stephanie A. Miner**. “Now is the time for Albany to do what is right and extend these important protections to transgender New Yorkers.”

Mayor Miner signed a gender identity non-discrimination law in 2013. GENDA has passed the New York State Assembly.

Mayor Miner’s full letter can be read below:

June 16, 2014

*Hon. Dean G. Skelos
New York State Senate Majority Coalition Leader
Legislative Office Building, Room 909
Albany, New York 12247*

Dear Senator Skelos:

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I am writing to urge that you, in the final week of the legislative session in Albany, bring the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA) bill before the entire New York State Senate for a vote. GENDA broadens state Human Rights Law to include protections for transgender New Yorkers. Extending the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans is the civil rights fight of our lifetime and I wholeheartedly encourage you to bring this bill for an up or down vote. As the only Senate conference leader who has not yet endorsed the GENDA legislation, now is your time to be on the right side of history and help further the equal rights of all New Yorkers.

In the City of Syracuse, we have taken steps to enshrine the rights of our LGBT citizens. I was proud to sign a historic law protecting transgender citizens, modeled on GENDA, last year. This was a great achievement for our City but we as a state need to go farther to protect the rights of transgender New Yorkers. Currently, in 33 states transgender employees can be fired for being who they are. Sadly, New York is one of those states that does not enshrine in law the civil rights of our transgender citizens. Discrimination against transgender Americans has an effect on our economy. Surveys conducted by the Human Rights Campaign and others point to high rates of workers not being hired, being denied promotion, and otherwise discriminated against in the workplace. It is time we safeguard transgender New Yorkers in the workplace.

We have seen GENDA pass the New York State Assembly many times with a broad range of support. As supporters of LGBT New Yorkers, we know GENDA would pass the Senate with the same level of broad support from across regions, parties, and ideologies. If you bring it for a vote, it will pass because we know now is the time to do what is right.

Sincerely,

Stephanie A. Miner
Mayor

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