

11/9/2021 Press Conference Talking Points
State Representative Jeff Currey

About 3 years ago, building upon our legislative successes, a group of interested parties thought it was time that Connecticut provided a more prescriptive way for organizations and individuals to better serve the LGBTQ+ community. With the support of then-Governor Malloy, a majority of the senate, all but 6 of our House colleagues, advocates throughout Connecticut - and most importantly the people here today, we successfully passed and formed the country's first statutorily-created LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network.

Given that the LGBTQ+ movement is still generally greener than other human rights battles, it should come as no surprise that our rainbow community and our needs often live in the shadows amongst other marginalized populations. During a time when disparities, especially in the health care space, have been at the forefront of almost every conversation, press conference, and legislative proposal, the purpose and intent of this legislation could not be clearer – or more necessary. This Network and this report are a huge step in taking us into the light so that we may better protect and care for CT's LGBTQ population.

Thank you to the Commission on Equity & Opportunity, the Department of Public Health, members of the Network, Amy Griffin and Health Evaluations Initiatives and all those who provided responses to the LGBTQ Needs Assessment survey. With this critical information, the Network will be better informed as they continue to help build a healthier and safer environment for Connecticut's LGBTQ community. The LGBTQ caucus is small, but mighty, and we look forward to a continuation of the Networks' work and the development of policy recommendations for upcoming legislative sessions.