Overview: Liaison Team

Week of 14th January 2019

Monday: 01/14: Brenda Churchill/Liaison Team met with DMV Commissioner Wanda Minoli. **Non-binary option will be available on VT Driver’s and CDL licenses as of July 1, 2019.** Designations will be: M-F-X. Commissioner is also making commitment to training staff. Commissioner supported using self-identified transgender instructor. Press release ready to go from DMV.

Monday: 01/14: Brenda met with Amanda Garces/VT Coalition for Ethnic and Social Equity in Schools regarding strategy for quickly advancing bill, H-3, through both chambers. Governor has already indicated his support for the bill.

Tuesday: 01/15: Brenda Churchill and Astrid Salvanas/Liaison Team at Statehouse.

Wednesday: 01/16: Brenda participated in GSA conference sponsored by Outright VT.

Wednesday: 01/16: Jesse Scarlato/Liaison Team at Statehouse.

**Jesse Scarlato: 01/15 Statehouse Report**

I spent the day in house judiciary and sat in on the session. It was a good chance to put some names to faces and learn more about the process. Mostly just watched and listened. No further updates at this time. Looking forward to continuing this work with you all,

Wednesday: 01/16: Keith Goslant/Liaison Team at Statehouse for evening event.

Thursday: 01/17: Brenda Churchill and Astrid Salvanas/Liaison Team at Statehouse.

**Astrid Sylvanas: 01/17 Statehouse Report**

Good afternoon all,

This morning H.3 was introduced to the education committee and history of it was discussed. Some previously related bills from prior session 2018 should be of interest to us mainly: S.257, H.794 and H.14 from the 2018 special session.  Especially to see what was taken from those in the drafting of H.3 and what was not.

Representatives Caleb Elder and Sarita Austin seemed very vocal supportive of H.3 from the get-go, and committee chair, Rep. Kathryn Webb said she would be speaking with her counterpart today on the bill and hopes to get things moving as soon as next week.

A good deal of testimony is expected from school children as well as many stakeholder organizations. It was suggested some of this might have been based off work being done in Oregon and might have some testimony from someone involved with that as well.

It was suggested this committee appointed from H.3 again be involved with the racial advisory council, who will be involved in research into current statutes.

Representative Christi expressed to me afterwards some concern that a representative from HRC not listed as one of the working group members designated by H.3 so perhaps that is something to look at.

There are several definitions within the bill, we should make sure the verbiage is correct especially for the "social groups" page 4, line 8.

Also, the end result of this multi-year study dictates that the State Board of Education in 2022 shall then come the report. Consider seems a weak word, but I don't know much about the nuances of why certain words like that are used.

Also, on page 12 says the report on bullying and harassment will be dissected by ethnic and racial groups, poverty status, disability status, English language learner status and gender. I see nothing about breaking out the data based on LGBTQIA status.

That's it for today, be safe in the snow and cold this weekend!!

Friday: 01/18: Brenda Churchill/Liaison Team at Statehouse

Saturday: 01/19: Brenda Churchill/Liaison Team invited speaker for 3rd Annual Women’s Rally

**Brenda Churchill: 01/19 Speech at 3rd Annual Women’s Rally Statehouse Montpelier**

*Please note: Brenda graciously agreed to change her order & to be the last speaker so that others who had travelled greater distances (i.e. Rep. Kiah Morris) could speak and leave in advance of predicted storm. A true gesture of support and solidarity.*

Good morning / Hello everyone! I’m humbled to be here with this amazing group of people…this energy is powerful, I can feel it from where I’m standing. Now if we could make that energy into heat…..

Before I get started with my speech this morning, I want to ask a favor.

When I say one of 2 phrases would you please respond with a very loud

HELL, NO

So, let’s practice and get this energy level through the roof:

When I say either I WONT BE ERASED, or WE WON’T BE ERASED You say:

HELL NO

Thanks, you so much for having me here today.

I had a speech all prepared and I just kept reading it over and over and it was good but just didn’t ring as true as I hoped so at 5:30 this morning, I took another shot at coming up with something that I hope will inspire at least ONE of you out there. Have you ever lost the use of a key on your keyboard?  My “g” key quit so it was ALT V for g all morning.

On a really good personal note, I got my legal name change done, and I fell in love…..again.

First the boring stuff about me….I work in this building behind me here

I wasn’t elected, I am not paid, but you will know what I do when I say I am a lobbyist, but I get to call my job LIAISON.

I represent the LGBTQIA Alliance of Vermont to folks here at the statehouse.

Did you know that currently there are dozens of bills coming forward that could affect everyone in Vermont...and have great impact on my transgender community?

I WON'T BE ERASED

Some other stuff about me

-Beside being State House liaison to the LGBTQIA Alliance of Vermont

    -Board of Emerge VT

    -Transgender support group at the new community center in Morrisville

    -Fair and Impartial Policing Community Board for VSP

-Inclusive Sex Education Task Force

      -Vermont coalition for ethnic & social equity in schools

-negotiated and ratified a contract with the democratic campaign for governor and the Campaign Worker guild (only unionized campaign in Vermont)

Some of the things that I worked on the last 2 years include:

Gender neutral bathrooms

New laws defining parenting

Minimum wage

Paid family leave

Universal primary care

One of my benchmark efforts has been adding a third gender marker to Vermont Driver's licenses and ID.  **I want you all to know that JULY 1 of this year, you will be able to have 3 choices for gender on your driver's license.**

I WON'T BE ERASED

Currently, a very dear friend of our transgender community has drafted a resolution to denounce the policy the current regime in DC wants to eliminate TRANSGENDER from any protections.  I can tell you unequivocally that Vermont stands with her Transgender community

WE WON’T BE ERASED

Another senator came to me the other day to ask if I would work with him to craft a bill that defines and protects gender non-conforming and non-binary individuals.

WE WON’T BE ERASED

The message that I want to make sure you all hear from me, clearly, and loudly today is that

YOU ARE ALL GREAT EXACTLY THE WAY YOU ARE.

I have never experienced gender or body dysphoria.  But it took me over 40 years to realize who I was and then another decade or so to be out and open and authentic and the person you see here today.  Although, my friend walked by earlier and said “so that’s what a trans-cicle looks like”…Geesh.

And I want to take a minute to say something to the young people with us: Try not to look to social media to define your perfection. It’s an illusion. You are ALL BEAUTIFUL…and to be beautiful, all it takes is self-confidence…not starving yourself or trying to force your body to represent something you’re not. Take it from me…bodies come in all shapes and sizes. It’s how much we appreciate this amazing machine that gets us around, keeps us safe, thinking, evolving, and becoming…that’s where real beauty comes from.

WE WON’T BE ERASED.

I want to wrap up with a few things this morning

When you come from a place of good, and being true to yourself, there’s nothing you can’t accomplish.

None of us are perfect. We weren’t perfect when we were born – and we’ll never be absolutely perfect ever in our lives.

We don’t have to be.

We just have to be EXACTLY AS WE ARE...or WANT TO BE. And accept each other for being that. And continue shouting with one voice – as we’re doing today.

Vermont is the state that often has shown the United States where to go and how to get there.

I WON'T BE ERASED

WE WON’T BE ERASED

Thank you for having me here today, I love you ALL just the way you are!!