

Senator Noland for what purpose do you seek recognition

To the bill Mr. President

To the bill Senator Noland

Thank you Mr. President, ladies and gentleman of the Senate. Today at long last we vote on the final and unavoidable question of civil unions in the State of Illinois. This vote calls for us to extend regardless of gender the same legal obligations, responsibilities protections and benefits afforded to our spouses in the marriage and the dissolution of marriage act in Illinois.

Our nation was founded, Mr. President, upon the principal that with the respect to our pursuit of happiness each of us are created equal one to another and the rights of everyone are diminished when the rights of any one of us are threatened.

Today, we are engaged in the continuing struggle to defend the right of those in committed family relationships in respect of gender to receive equal services in place of public accommodation, such as hospital----and places of employment without first having to produce proof of legal authorization under powers of attorney.

I rise in the support of the notice that it would be possible for individual in such committed relationship again respective to gender to be treated as one would wish their family member to be so treated, but unfortunately this is not the case in Illinois.

With that said, I recognize that it is not a regional issue in our state. For difficulties in discrimination based on gender exist in every city, every county, and every enclave of Illinois. Producing in many incidences chronic frustration and even depression that may drive some individuals to extreme acts of desperation; neither should this be a partisan issue, we have come far on the issue of civil rights today good men and women on both

sides of the isle should be able to unite behind this very straight forward issue and set aside matter of party politics. So ultimately this is not even a legal legislative issue, that let alone can not change what is in our hearts. We are at long last confronted with a moral issue which essentially asks the question of whether all Illinois residents are to be afforded equal rights and equal opportunities. Whether we are going to treat our fellow citizens as we wish to be treated. If someone we know because of his or her gender can not provide health care or extend retirement benefits or he or she can not pass on property to ones they love, if to the point he or she can not enjoy the full protection of our state and our U.S. constitutions. Then who among us would be so willing to super strict our own rights. Who among us would be willing in this matter in be prevented in assisting the ones we love. Again legislation can not solve this problem on discrimination, it must be solved in the homes and in the hearts of every citizens and every community across this great state. We send young people from Illinois to fight for freedom throughout the world and we teach our children here at home that all men are created equal but are we to say to the world that much more importantly to each other if not our children that this is state where all are created equal except for those that are born with different gender different affiliation. That we have no second class citizens except the gay or lesbian. That we have no discrimination or gender bias except for the respect for the gay or lesbian; we have previously voted to uphold that principal such discrimination is not allowed in the conduct of housing and employment law in Illinois now come the time for the state to complete their promise. I urge the general assembly and this senate to make a commitment that is not full made to the notion that discrimination based on gender has absolutely no place in life at all in Illinois. We are one nation under god, just

as God made men and women with many ethnicities inheriting their external features as something beyond their control. So too I believe God made our fellow citizens our friends and many of our own family members with differencing internal features as well. Indeed there are many studies that suggest that in as many as much as 10% of our populations are gay or lesbian. Upwards to 65% of people in the state of Illinois support this and except this and in turn support this legislation. How can we say to them and to their families that they can not have the right to take care love ones in need or pass on property under our laws of inheritance. We owe them and owe ourselves and our children better state than that. That is all the vast majority of the people our state is asking, and question of fairness, nothing more nothing less. And in answering it I ask the support of my fellow colleagues of this chamber and all the good people of this state.

Thank you Mr. President