

**EDUCATION & LABOR COMMITTEE**

**Congressman George Miller, Chairman**

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Press Office, 202-226-0853

**Chairman Andrews Statement at Subcommittee Hearing on An Examination of Discrimination Against Transgender Americans in the Workplace**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – *Below are the prepared remarks of U.S. Rep. Rob Andrews (D-NJ), chairman of the House Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, for a subcommittee hearing on “An Examination of Discrimination Against Transgender Americans in the Workplace”*

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Good morning and welcome to the Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee Hearing entitled "An Examination of Discrimination Against Transgender Americans in the Workplace."

The purpose of today's hearing is to educate Congress and the public about the discrimination transgender American face particularly in the workplace absent a comprehensive federal law to protect them.

Workplace discrimination against a particular group of people is morally unacceptable and conflicts with the principles we hold sacred in our society. Furthermore, workplace discrimination, unchecked, harms our economy both domestically and globally.

When an employer is permitted to deny someone a job based on their identity without consequence, makes increases on our unemployment rate and diminishes our competitive edge in the global economy, making us less competitive in the global economy.

Testifying before us today are some of the most distinguished and brightest members of our society, who were denied employment or fired because they are transgender. These individuals along with the roughly 700,000 to 3 million transgender individuals living in America today run the risk of being fired, demoted or not even hired because of their gender identity.

There are 12 states, including the District of Columbia with laws in place to protect transgender individuals from workplace discrimination, as well as, many reputable companies with anti-discrimination policies. Despite these protections, studies and surveys reveal high rates of unemployment and low-income status among transgender Americans.

Today's hearing is simply a first step in identifying the problem workplace discrimination against transgender Americans.

I thank the witnesses for coming forward to the subcommittee today and look forward to hearing your testimony.

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