

NOTICE OF PUBLIC FORUM
SENATOR THOMAS K. DUANE

**PUBLIC FORUM ON THE NEED FOR THE GENDER EXPRESSION AND
NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT (GENDA)**

Wednesday, May 25, 2005 10:30AM-1:00PM Hearing Room A

Legislative Office Building Albany, NY 12247

Every individual within this State is entitled to equal opportunity to enjoy a full and productive life and the failure to provide such opportunity threatens the general welfare of all of our citizens. Widespread prejudice has fostered a general climate of hostility and distrust leading all too often to physical violence against those whose gender identity or expression does not conform to the stereotypical views of what a person's gender should be. Those of transgendered experience, those perceived to be too "butch" or too "effeminate" should not be forced to suffer the pains of discrimination.

It is for this reason that Senator Thomas K. Duane and Assemblymember Richard Gottfried introduced the **Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA)** (S.4794/A.7438). GENDA will add the category of gender identity and expression to the already existing New York State human rights laws. The current law makes it illegal in New York State to discriminate on the basis of age, race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, sex, marital status and other categories in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations, education and credit.

The purpose of this public forum is to discuss the problems of discrimination based on gender identity or expression and why the passage of a bill such as GENDA is vital to insure that *every* New Yorker is afforded legal protections from discrimination.

TESTIMONY IS BY INVITATION ONLY

For those invited to testify please complete and return this form by **Friday, May 22, 2005**. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that people may be notified in the event of postponement or cancellation. *Oral Testimony is limited to 15 minutes*. Witnesses are encouraged to summarize the written comments which they have submitted. Please submit ten (10) copies of written testimony. In preparing the order of witnesses we will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. These requests should be made on the reply form and communicated to Senator Duane's office as early as possible. For further information please contact Senator Duane's counsel, **Mark Furnish at (518) 455-2451 or furnishesq@hotmail.com**.

Reply Form:

_____ I will _____ I will not testify at May 25, 2005 GENDA Hearing

NAME: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE: _____

FAX: _____

E-MAIL _____