



END AIDS. LIVE LIFE.

**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT
A358 (Bronson) / S3225 (Hoylman-Sigal)**

Gay Men's Health Crisis, Inc. (GMHC), the world's first and leading provider of HIV and AIDS prevention, care, and advocacy, strongly supports the passage of **A358 (Bronson) / S3225 (Hoylman-Sigal)**; a bill that requires the collection of certain demographic information about the sexual orientation and gender identity or expression of residents by certain state agencies, boards, and commissions.

As an organization that serves HIV- and AIDS-affected communities, GMHC recognizes the importance in addressing every individual population's needs. In terms of the HIV epidemic, the disease continues to disproportionately impact gay and bisexual men, transgender women, and communities of color. Therefore, it is essential to learn about the most vulnerable populations in order to help them.

This bill would require every state agency, board, or commission that directly collects data on ethnic origin for residents of New York to use separate categories for sexual orientation and gender identity to keep a more accurate and relevant public record of populations that fit in such categories.

The purpose of this bill is to acknowledge that while gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and those of non-conforming gender identity or expression share geographical and cultural similarities, they also experience diverse social, educational, health, and economic differences unique to their life and experience. Therefore, separating data for these areas of the population and making it publicly accessible is critical for enhancing the state's understanding of the needs of those communities.

For these reasons and more, GMHC strongly supports and recommends passage of A358 (Bronson) / S3225 (Hoylman-Sigal).