

**Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, D.C.**  
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**Testimony on  
PR 19-740, "Interagency Council on Homelessness  
Brian P. Watson Confirmation Resolution of 2012"**

Delivered before the Committee on Human Services  
July 9, 2012

Good morning, Chairman Graham. I am Rick Rosendall, Vice President for Political Affairs of the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington. I am here to declare GLAA's enthusiastic support for Brian Watson's nomination to the Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Brian is an activist in the areas of social justice, youth, LGBT issues, and HIV/AIDS. He is past president of the D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Men and Women, and has worked on its revitalization. He is Director of Programs for Transgender Health Empowerment, where four years ago he led the effort to create the region's first GLBTQ youth homeless transitional program, named the Wanda Alston House after our late friend and colleague. He is a former board member of the Youth Pride Alliance and the DC Center.

Brian has served on the Regional Health Services HIV/AIDS Planning Council, LGBT Executive Advisory Board, the Mayor's HIV/AIDS Advisory Board, in addition to the Interagency Council on Homelessness. He is the only person currently on the council from an LGBT and youth-serving organization. His work at Wanda Alston House gives him direct experience in serving one of our populations most at risk for homelessness and its associated physical abuse, sexual exploitation, HIV infection, addiction, mental health problems, and lower educational attainment, which are documented by the Center for American Progress in its 2010 report, "On the Streets."<sup>1</sup>

Brian's commitment to service has won him many honors including being named a Capital Pride Hero and an American Red Cross volunteer of the year. In 2008, he became one of the youngest recipients of GLAA's Distinguished Service Award. He is a member of D.C.'s LGBT-affirming Covenant Baptist Church, where he has served in the HIV/AIDS ministry and the choir.

We commend Mayor Gray for Brian's nomination, and urge the Council to act promptly and favorably on PR 19-740, the "Interagency Council on Homelessness Brian P. Watson Confirmation Resolution of 2012."

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> "On the Streets: The Federal Response to Gay and Transgender Homeless Youth," by Nico Sifra Quintana, Josh Rosenthal, and Jeff Krehely, Center for American Progress, June 2010, <http://tinyurl.com/2fscp6z>