

## SPENDING

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House Resolution 862 is needed to stop federally funded anti-bias curriculum from promoting homosexuality, said Lon Mabon, chairman of the Oregon Citizens Alliance, adding that the OCA and United States Citizens' Alliance support HR 862.

Mabon said the legislation has an excellent chance of passing.

"A similar measure in the 103rd Congress did pass on a 63-36 margin, and I think that this Senate is even more conservative or pro-family than the previous one," he said.

Mabon is referring to an amendment added to House Joint Resolution 6, which prevented local educational agencies receiving federal funds to "implement or carry out programs or activities that have either the purpose or effect of encouraging or supporting homosexuality as a positive, alternative lifestyle."

The amendment passed but the homosexuality clause was changed to prohibit offensive material from being presented by federally funded educational agencies, he said.

In addition, Senate Bill 317, which would, "stop the waste of taxpayer funds on activities by government agencies that encourage its employees or officials to accept homosexuality

as a legitimate or normal lifestyle," has been referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs. The bill was introduced by Sen. Jessie Helms R-N.C.

Mabon said SB 317 should be passed to prevent federal agencies from forcing employees to accept homosexuality as a normal, acceptable lifestyle.

"You can't make somebody believe something they don't believe but you can force them to attend classes that attempt to force them to do so," Mabon said.

University law professor Dominick Vetri disagrees and said SB 317 is an attempt to keep homosexuality from being discussed at federally funded sensitivity workshops.

Senate Bill 317 is contrary to the concept of a university, said Kelly Matchet-Morris, resident hall director and gay rights activist.

"We're talking about federal workers, particularly at a university that serves a very diverse student population, and minimizing the services because we won't be able to educate about issues faced by those diverse populations," Matchet-Morris said.

The bill is intended to exclude homosexuals from anti-discrimination policies, said Doug Hathaway of the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

"There's no federal law that

makes it illegal to fire or discriminate against gay people," he said. "That's why many federal agencies have included gays and lesbians in anti-discrimination policies."

He said SB 317 is an attempt to counteract this.

While Mabon said he thinks both congressional bills will pass,

"I doubt very much that these will become law as proposed," Vetri said.

However, these bills may be added as riders to bigger bills if not passed, Lehrman said.

"In the frenzy to pass the original bill, they feel they have to overlook the rider that's distasteful," he said.

Opponents of HR 862 and SB 317 said both are discriminatory.

"To pass legislation like this is a tremendous slap in the face for human rights," Vetri said.

"Every time something goes up that stands against me, even if it isn't supported, the damage has already been done because the government has already given approval to discrimination," Matchet-Morris said.

If HB 862 comes to a vote Rep. Peter DeFazio will oppose it, said DeFazio's legislative director Jeff Stier.

Senators Bob Packwood and Mark Hatfield were unavailable for comment.

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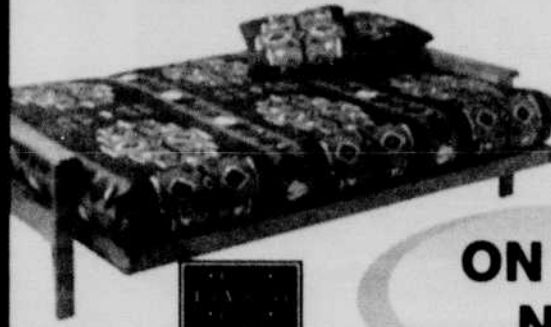


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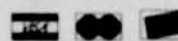
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