

NORTHWESTnews

A motion to force a vote on hate crimes legislation sponsored by U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore., was defeated June 11 by a 54-43 vote.

The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act would add real or perceived sexual orientation, gender and disability to the categories covered by a 33-year-old federal statute. The bill also would provide federal technical and financial assistance to state and local law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute hate crimes.

The only way to have prevented a filibuster would have been for 60 senators to OK a cloture motion, which is designed to limit debate and allow a vote while preventing opponents from offering unrelated amendments. Along with one Independent and four Republicans, every Democrat supported the motion except for Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota, who changed his vote from "yes" to "no" so the legislation could be brought up later this session.

Queer political organizations immediately reacted by engaging in their routine partisan bickering. Chad Johnson, National Stonewall Democrats executive director, blamed Smith for failing to win over the bill's previous Republican champions, including co-sponsors Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania and John Ensign of Nevada, who "effectively destroyed an historic opportunity on this matter of basic civil rights."

Meanwhile, the Log Cabin Republicans accused Democrats of using a "high-risk strategy" and letting "election-year politics" get in the way. The queer GOP organization also claimed Orrin Hatch of Utah offered amendments only to "strengthen" the bill.

A LOVE-HATE RELATIONSHIP

Gordon Smith is having a really lousy month by Jim Radosta

"We are fortunate to have Sen. Gordon Smith of Oregon as a leader in this effort, because without him we would not be so close to a breakthrough," said Rich Tafel, Log Cabin executive director. "We applaud his tenacious leadership on advancing this important legislation. His proven skills at bringing people together will be crucial in the coming weeks on this issue."

According to Smith spokesman Chris Matthews, the act will be reintroduced as an amendment soon. He said the cloture motion's failure was unfortunate but blamed it on Democrats behaving badly.

"As soon as the bill came to the floor they filed cloture on it to end debate, and there is a number of people who had problems with that, because it's generally speaking poor form to try to end debate before it even begins," Matthews told *Just Out*. "And that caused a number of people to vote against the cloture motion who had supported the hate crimes legislation in the past."

This month Smith has been attacked from all sides—he also got an earful from Concerned Women for America of Oregon, which

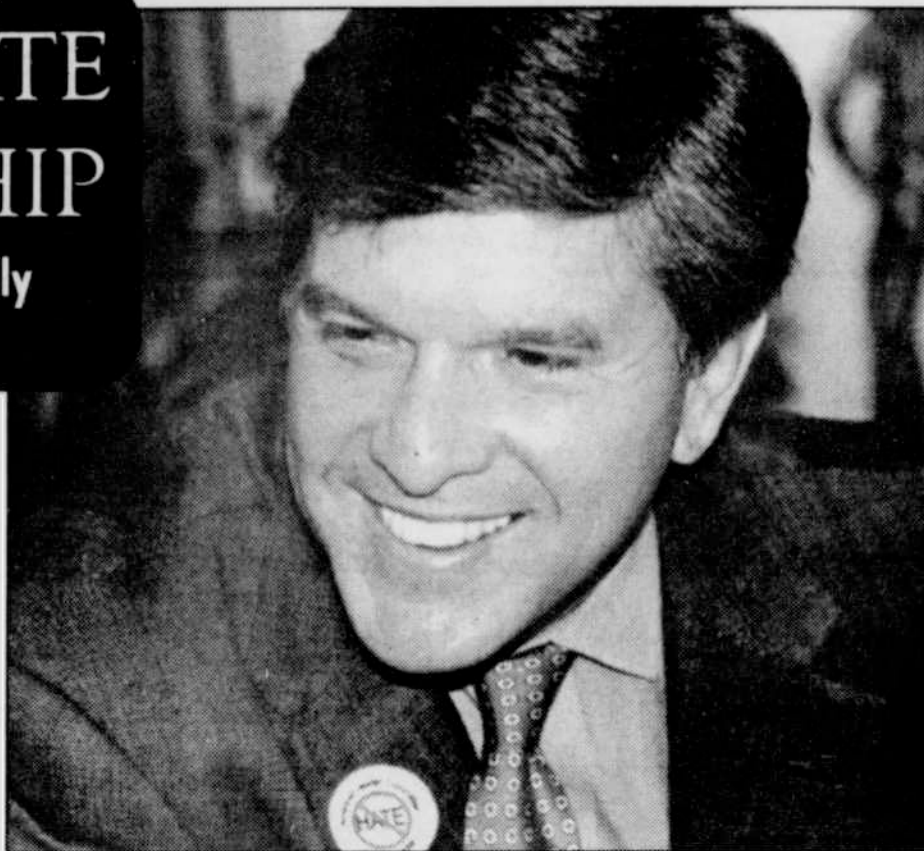


PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

Mr. Smith went to Washington, but will he be leaving soon?

called the bill "special protection for homosexuals." Director Suzanne Brownlow sent an alert to her minions linking the folly of hate crimes legislation to the "success" of ex-gay ministries.

"They are not a vulnerable group that is distinguished by inherent characteristics," she said. "They are only distinguished by their choice to behave differently. The fact that many homosexuals have come out of the dangerous life of homosexuality and are now living abundant, healthier, heterosexual lives proves that homosexuality is not a born characteristic, as the color of someone's skin."

Adding to Smith's troubles this month was the news that Lon Mabon, Oregon Citizens Alliance chairman, will be running against him in the Senate race this fall as the Constitution Party nominee. This could pull away conservatives and give the edge to Secretary of State Bill Bradbury, the Democratic hopeful.


Mabon is upset that Smith "has embraced the homosexual agenda" by sponsoring the hate crimes bill. He doesn't believe in the establishment of sexual orientation as an equivalent to race, gender and national origin.

"There's enough protections without creating a whole new classification of

laws," Mabon told *Just Out*. "Gordon Smith is not a true Republican. There's no doubt."

Regardless of Mabon's name calling, Matthews noted, Smith strongly supports hate crimes legislation and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. "Labels aren't really important to the senator; good policy is."

Lou Beres, Oregon Christian Coalition executive director, already is jumping on the Smith-bashing bandwagon. "I am afraid he could lose his 'base' in the upcoming election and lose to Bill Bradbury if he doesn't support and acknowledge the beliefs of a good portion of his supporters," he wrote in an e-mail June 8. **JR**



Bella CASA
REALTY, INC.

Buying or selling your home is an important choice. Let Celia & Terri guide you through the process!

CELIA LYON (503) 260-6231

TERRI POPEJOY (503) 330-0400

AWESOME BUNGALOW
1 Blk from the Park, 3bds, 2ba, den, new kitchen, hardwoods, fireplace, tile, professionally landscaped backyard w/ stone patio. \$265,000—1715 SE 59th Ave off Hawthorne.

3 ACRES
Contemporary, 4bd/2.1ba, country property close to Redland Rd. 2 levels, hot tub, & more. \$249,000—18418 S. Holly Ln off Maplelaine.

50'S CLASSIC RANCH COMING ATTRACTION!
2 levels, 2bd/2ba, huge bonus rm. 100x100 lot, hardwoods, huge kitchen & great fireplace! 2 car garage. \$219,000—Concordia.

IRVINGTON/SABIN NEW PRICE!
Great old Portland, incredible yard, original feel, tons of landscaping & 2 ponds, 3bds/2ba, sits up from street. Atrium, sunroom, & more. \$259,900—4115 NE 14th Ave.

1 ACRE
Contemporary 3bd/2ba, fireplace, horse trail easement. Views—awesome property. \$245,000—17681 S. Canter Ln.

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT BUILDING
Condo, beautiful, old world feel, great design. Open rms, 2 beds, 1 bath, views, on Trolley. It's a gem! \$209,000.

CRAFTSMAN
3bds, 2.5 baths, fireplace, great yd in green space—excellent condition. \$185,000—14150 SE Summerfield.

See our CLASSIFIED AD this issue for some more great listings.


Bella Casa Realty Inc.
1523 SE Ankeny, Portland, OR 97214 • 503-231-SELL (7355)

A member of the community that you can trust


LGBT Pride is a celebration of community, and community is all about trust. Call a community-owned investment team for service that you can rely on.

www.griffonfinancial.com

- Objective information not driven by commissions or proprietary products.
- We can help you get back on track to meeting your financial goals.
- Our team has over 35 years combined experience in the investment business.
- Access to individual stocks, bonds and over 6,000 mutual funds.



ANTOINETTE LAFERRIERE
President



GRIFFON FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC
Financial and Estate Planning Services

Antoinette's Direct Line: 503.528.2800
Toll Free: 888.434.5552 • 503.203.8585
5440 SW Westgate Drive, Suite 110 Portland, OR 97221

Securities and financial planning offered exclusively through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. Member NASD/SIPC