

**TRANS ACTIVISTS CELEBRATE INCLUSION**

Portland activist Lori Buckwalter participated in a national telephone conference call June 17 that discussed efforts to include trans people in federal legislation that, as currently worded, would ban workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation but not gender identity.

This year marks the first time that virtually the entire sexual minorities community achieved consensus and solidarity concerning trans inclusion in all aspects of the movement. More than 20 queer organizations—including the Human Rights Campaign; National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; American Civil Liberties Union; Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays; Pride at Work; and National Latina/o Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Organization—have signed statements, sent letters or participated in face-to-face meetings with the lead congressional sponsors of the Employee Non-discrimination Act and voiced their unqualified support for trans inclusion in the bill.

"The attention that the trans community has put forth for a long time has often been a cause for frustration," said Buckwalter, executive director of It's Time, Oregon! "We got the impression in reviewing this proposal with trans activists around the country that this really energized the community. It gave them an alternative to look forward to working in an equitable relationship and with the full support and shoulder to shoulder with the whole community. I think that that's really sort of a monumental change within our own community of maturation and attitude and a new hopefulness that we have in this legislative process."



Lori Buckwalter (left, with her partner of six years, Debra Samuel) says the queer community is undergoing "a monumental change" regarding trans inclusion

**GORDON SMITH HATES HATE**

U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore., held a press conference June 17 in Washington, D.C., to urge passage of legislation expanding the definition of hate crimes to include sexual orientation.

He was joined by U.S. Sens. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., and Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, and Judy Shepard, whose son Matthew was killed five years ago in Laramie, Wyo. Also in attendance was former University of Oregon student Trev Broudy, who was severely beaten with a baseball bat last year in West Hollywood, Calif., after hugging a male friend goodnight.

Last month Smith's office signed a statement asserting that it will not discriminate against queer employees. For several years the Human Rights Campaign has asked members of Congress to prohibit bias based on sexual orientation, but this is the first time gender identity and expression have been included in the pledge.

**LEGISLATURE CONSIDERS ANTI-GAY INSURANCE BILL**

Basic Rights Oregon is urging people to tell their elected representatives to vote no on legislation that would exempt companies with 25 or fewer employees from nondiscrimination provisions in health insurance coverage based on sexual orientation. Small businesses are estimated to make up 70 percent of the businesses statewide and employ about half of the workforce.

Current law states, "No inquiry in an application for health or life coverage shall be directed toward determining the applicant's sexual orientation." Under House Bill 2537 this provision no longer would apply to small employers.

**BEAVERTON SUPPORTS NONDISCRIMINATION BILL**

After receiving a unanimously supported resolution from its Human Rights Advisory Commission, the Beaverton City Council voted June 2 to endorse Senate Bill 786. The legislation, which is being considered in the Senate Rules Committee, would add sexual orientation and gender identity to Oregon's existing nondiscrimination laws.

"This was the right thing to do," Mayor Rob Drake said. "Being free of discrimination is a basic human right. Fighting discrimination is of top concern for maintaining a high quality of life. People should not have to constantly look over their shoulders."

**HOUSE PARTY PLANNED FOR DEAN CAMPAIGN**

Businessman and longtime gay activist Terry Bean will hold a house party supporting Howard Dean's bid for the Democratic presidential nomination from 5 to 6:30 p.m. June 27 at 1882 S.W. Hawthorne Terrace, with a telephone call from the former Vermont governor at 5:30.

The minimum contribution is \$100, and anybody who has played host to a Dean house party and raised at least \$200 can go for free. Organizers also are looking for \$500 co-hosts.

To RSVP or to volunteer by helping contact potential guests and donors for this event, call Jules Kopel-Baily at 503-804-6910. For more information visit [www.deanforamerica.com](http://www.deanforamerica.com).

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