

OREGON GOP ADOPTS ANTI-GAY PLATFORM

The Oregon Republican Party has adopted a radically anti-gay platform that refers to the "homosexual agenda" as "morally wrong and damaging to society" and queer parenting as "a moral transgression."

According to Eric Stern, who directs queer outreach for the Democratic National Committee, the state party's platform reveals the true extent of the homophobic GOP agenda despite the moderate face of the national party's convention in New York City.

"Republicans will trot out pro-gay moderates like Rudy Giuliani...in an attempt to masquerade the party's real agenda from the American people," he said. "Well, these state platforms rip that mask right off and expose the truth. By refusing to put an end to the discrimination found in his own party's platforms, [President] Bush is telling America that he agrees with these divisive and dangerous beliefs. The proof is in the writing."

These are some excerpts from the Oregon platform:

- "We recognize that there is a severe attack upon the traditional family unit. Therefore we wish to define what we are referring to when we say 'family.' A family is brought into existence when one man and one woman join in matrimony and includes children (if any) brought into that family. We also recognize the difficulties faced by single-parent families. We support and encourage these individuals."
- "We oppose laws to promote, affirm or establish legal status for same-sex marriages and create benefits normally attributed to heterosexual marriages, and we urge the Oregon Legis-

lature to pass, and the governor to sign, a bill refusing to recognize in Oregon a same-sex marriage performed under the laws of any other jurisdiction."

• "Tax dollars are a precious resource of government. We oppose the use of revenues to fund programs which promote homosexuality. We believe all forms of homosexuality and the so-called homosexual agenda are morally wrong and damaging to society in the long term. We believe that the practice of homosexuality is a matter of personal choice.... Laws which grant minority status, create special consideration or protection based upon a behavior are equally inappropriate and thus opposed."

• "We support the prohibition of public schools from instructing on behaviors relating to homosexuality and bisexuality in a manner that encourages, promotes or sanctions such behaviors. We support sanctions for noncompliance by any public elementary or secondary school or by any public institution of higher education, and their employees in their official capacity, including loss of all or part of state funding."

• "We oppose the Children and Families Division practice of adoption and foster parenting by homosexuals as a moral transgression against the child."

• "We support the exclusion of homosexuals from the military service in order to maintain an effective fighting force and preserving the morale and dignity of the armed forces."

• "We consider HIV/AIDS a health problem, not a civil rights issue. We believe any government school HIV/AIDS instruction must reflect this concept."

• "We strongly condemn discrimination against AIDS patients or relegating them to minority status."

TRANS LOBBYISTS EDUCATE POLITICIANS

Several trans lobbyists set up "Congressional Summer School" meetings during the August recess to educate politicians about discrimination and harassment based on gender identity and expression. The effort was coordinated by the National Center for Transgender Equality.

The activists included Reid Vanderburgh of Outside In's Identity Project, Christa-Margaret Nelson of the Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center's Trans Youth Group, Kaelin Bowers of Basic Rights Oregon's Trans Advocacy Group and Lori Buckwalter of It's Time, Oregon! They were hoping to meet with Republican U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith and Democratic U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden as well as Democratic U.S. Reps. Earl Blumenauer and David Wu.

No federal laws protect trans people from discrimination. However, the Human Rights Campaign announced last month that it will support the Employment Nondiscrimination Act only if it covers gender identity as well as sexual orientation.

"We hope to build a strong congressional consensus in Oregon for trans support and to use this wider support to demonstrate the viability of trans legislation to other congresspeople," Buckwalter told *Just Out*. "We recognize that a Republican



PHOTO BY MARIY DAVIS

Reid Vanderburgh was among the trans lobbyists who met with Oregon politicians while they were home for the August congressional recess

Congress will probably not pass any queer-friendly bills. But when this legislation does eventually come up for votes, we want to have the groundwork for inclusion already well established."

RACE RAISES MONEY TO FIGHT BREAST CANCER

The Komen Portland Race for the Cure is set to kick off Sept. 19 at Tom McCall Waterfront Park.

Organizers hope to attract more than 40,000 participants, making it the biggest fund-raiser on the West Coast for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. The event includes three walks, two runs and a Row for the Cure.

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