

ties community. Paterson, who represented Harlem in the state Senate, has been described as "progressive" and "extremely LGBT-friendly" by queer activists. Insiders say they expect him to follow through on Spitzer's work to pass same-sex marriage legislation.

Paterson has been on record for marriage equality since 1994. In 1987 he refused to pass a New York hate crimes bill that didn't include protections for sexual minorities.

"If there is any consolation in this sad, sad situation surrounding Gov. Spitzer, it's that David Paterson is the staunchest ally our New York community has ever had. We know we can count on him to continue his decades-long commitment to winning full equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender New Yorkers," said Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

According to Alan Van Capelle, executive director of the Empire State Pride Agenda, Paterson "has been a strong and consistent friend of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community ever since he was elected to public office in 1985. He worked hard as a state senator to help pass hate crimes legislation in 2000 and, in his first weeks as Senate minority leader, worked to make sure that there were enough Democratic votes to pass the Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act in 2002."



Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire helped expand rights for sexual minorities when she signed a new domestic partnership law March 12.

by more than 500,000 people on YouTube.

Since the speech was released, Kern has received more than 17,000 e-mails, which are being reviewed by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation. She claims the messages contain death threats.

Leaders of various gay rights organizations have also spoken out against Kern's hateful speech, including Joe Solmonese of Human Rights Campaign; Neil G. Giuliano of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation; and even lesbian talk show host Ellen DeGeneres, who attempted to leave her a voicemail message.



Anti-gay Oklahoma state Rep. Sally Kern was busted for being a bigot when a hateful speech she gave was broadcast on YouTube.

**OKLAHOMA
Politician Spreads Anti-Gay Hate**

Oklahoma state Rep. Sally Kern, R-Oklahoma City, was caught spewing homophobic hate speech when the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund released March 7 a speech she gave on YouTube.com.

The anti-gay lawmaker, who is married to a Baptist reverend, made several ludicrous statements at a Republican organization earlier this year. Among them were declarations that "the homosexual agenda is destroying the nation," that "studies show no society that has totally embraced homosexuality has lasted for more than a few decades" and that gays recruit in schools.

As of March 17, the recording had been viewed

**WASHINGTON
Domestic Partnership Law Expanded**

Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire signed the state's expanded domestic partnership bill into law March 12, providing same-sex couples with more than 170 of the rights and responsibilities given to married couples.

The areas expanded in the new law pertain to probate and trusts, community property and homestead exemptions, and guardianship and powers of attorney. The bill also gives domestic partners the right to refuse to testify against each other in court.

The new law also provides a dissolution plan, allowing the secretary of state to end partnerships in the first five years. Other partnerships would be dissolved in superior court, just as with divorce.

The original law, which passed last year, provides rights such as hospital visitation, autopsy authorization, organ donation decisions and inheritance rights. Approximately 3,500 couples have registered as domestic partners since the law took affect.

The expanded law takes effect June 12. Washington state Rep. Jamie Pedersen, D-Seattle, a sponsor of the measure, called it a step in addressing injustices to sexual minorities.

Unmarried heterosexual couples are also eligible for domestic partnerships if one member is at least 62 years old.

State Sen. Ed Murray, D-Seattle, a sponsor of the original domestic partnership law, called the expansion bill a sign of hope for full recognition of same-sex relationships. **10**

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