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VERMONT'S NEWSPAPER for LESBIANS and GAY MEN

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Howard Russell of Vermont Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men, Rep Micque Glitman of Burlington primary sponsor of H-247, and Tim Mazur, ACLU lobbyist announced the introduction of a Lesbian/Gay Anti-discrimination bill.

## Lesbian/Gay Anti-discrimination Bill Introduced

H.247, the lesbian/gay anti-discrimination bill was introduced into the Vermont state legislature on Tuesday, Feb. 10. The bill, sponsored by Micque Glitman of Burlington and eleven co-sponsors, would add the phrase "affectional or sexual orientation" to current anti-discrimination statutes in Vermont. It would include the areas of employment, housing, insurance, child custody, credit and public accommodations.

At a press conference following the bill's introduction, Glitman said, "We are starting on the final leg of civil rights legislation... we are saying that we will no longer allow some people to be treated as second class citizens. We will no longer allow discrimination."

Also at the press conference, Howard Russell released preliminary results of a survey conducted by Vermonters for

Lesbian and Gay Rights. Of the first 100 surveys received, 84% had experienced some type of harassment, intimidation or violence due to their sexual orientation. Half of the respondents had experienced some type of job discrimination related to their sexual orientation. And, twenty percent had been victims of some form of housing discrimination.

Although this was not a scientific survey, Russell commented, "these results clearly indicate that discrimination towards lesbians and gay men is pervasive in Vermont and shows the need for legislative action."

More complete results of this survey will be released within the next couple of weeks.

Tim Mazur, an ACLU lobbyist, also took part in the press conference indicating that this bill would be a top priority for the Vermont ACLU.

## HTLV-III Anti-discrimination Bill Introduced

Legislation which would prohibit discrimination on the basis of tests for exposure to the virus which causes A.I.D.S., and which forbids mandatory testing, has been introduced into the Vermont House of Representatives and referred to the Health and Welfare Committee.

House Bill 239, sponsored by Rep. Micque Glitman of Burlington, has 37 co-sponsors, nearly one quarter of the members of the House. The co-sponsors represent 13 of the 14 counties in Vermont, and cross party and ideological lines.

Legislative supporters of the measure are optimistic about the chances of passing the legislation. Rep. Ben Truman, a Burlington Democrat who sits on the Health and Welfare Committee, is leading the push for the bill on the committee. He notes that eight of the eleven committee members are co-sponsors. "They'll want to look at some of the details, and hear from experts, but I feel very positive about our chances of reporting it out of committee favorable," said Truman.

Legislators say that the lobbying and educational work done on a similar bill last year helped pave the way for this year's bill.

*continued, page 2*

The bill (H.247) was assigned to the Judiciary Committee where supporters hope it will be given a fair and prompt hearing. People are encouraged to contact your legislators and share your views on this bill. Messages can be left for your legislators by calling the Sargent at Arms at the Statehouse (1-800-322-5616).

For more information on the current status of this bill, call Howdy at 453-2218 or Susan at 234-9589.

[In addition to Micque Glitman, co-sponsors of H.247 are Bassett of Burlington, Burke of Putney, Christiansen of East Montpelier, Harris of Windsor, Hockert of Burlington, Lingelbach of Thetford, Luginbuhl of South Burlington, Martin of Middlebury, McCormack of Rutland City, Truman of Burlington, and Youngbaer of Plainfield.]

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