

# Join The Fight

## Support The Vermont Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men

in their work to pass legislation guaranteeing equal rights to Lesbians and Gay men in Vermont and insuring protection for People With AIDS and HIV+ persons. Contribute to our cause and add your name to our mailing list. We need your help.

Yes, I want to be a part of making Vermont safer for Gays and Lesbians. Add my name to your mailing list

Accept my contribution of \_\_\_\_\_ to help with expenses and general coalition building efforts.

See Address on VT Resources Page

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THANK YOU!

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# National News

## Senate Rejects Homophobic Amendment

The lesbian and gay community won its second major national victory in less than a month when an anti-gay amendment offered by Sen. William Armstrong (R-CO) met with defeat in the senate on March 1, 1990. The amendment was drafted broadly and would have allowed all institutions that serve children in D.C. to bar any lesbian or gay man from serving as a "role model, mentor, or companion to any minor" in venues such as schools, hospitals, or volunteer organizations. Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) offered alternative language that would allow organizations to deny positions to heterosexuals, gays, and bisexuals who have been charged or convicted of sexual offenses with minors.

"Sen. Kennedy struck a blow against the anti-gay bigotry of the Armstrong amendment...The Senate rejected the false notion that lesbians and gays cannot be appropriate role models or that we pose a threat to children," said Stephen Smith, legislative director of the Campaign Fund.

## "Being Gay is Not Just About Sex"

In an important ruling, the Iowa Supreme Court recently rejected a trial court's order that a gay father be restricted to visitation with his children only so long as "no unrelated adult" was present. In lifting the restriction, the court stated that "(t)his unusual provision was obviously imposed on account of (the man's) homosexual lifestyle." Though his former wife conceded that he is a good and loving father who should have frequent visitation, she

claimed to be concerned for the children because of his "gay lifestyle."

The trend in the courtroom is clearly in favor of gay parents. However, it is still not unusual for trial courts to impose restrictions that the children not be exposed to other lesbians or gay men.

"In rejecting the restriction, the Iowa court seemed to recognize that children who spend time with gay parents and their partners are no more 'exposed' to their 'private sex lives' than they would be to that of a non-gay couple," stated Evan Wolfson, Lambda Staff Attorney. "Being gay is not just about sex."

## Hell No, We Won't Go

NGLTF will boycott the Sixth International Conference on AIDS, scheduled for June 20-24 in San Francisco, because of the US Government's discriminatory AIDS, gay, and lesbian immigration and visitation policies. Under current law, any person testing HIV-positive may be excluded from entering the US.

NGLTF is calling on others to boycott as well. "It is with mixed emotions that we announce our decision to boycott," said David Lemos, Acting Executive Director of the NAMES Project Foundation, explaining that "our action is prompted solely by these governmental policies and is not intended to indicate any lack of support for the conference organizers."

The American Association of Physicians for Human Rights (AAPHR) has also released a position statement which opposes the immigration policy and describes the regulations as "medically uninformed."

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