## Gay Rights in Alaska

Amy Young

On January 19, 1993 the Anchorage Municipal Assembly passed into law the first gay rights bill in Alaska. The bill amends the municipal civil rights code to protect municipal employees and individuals working for private municipal contractors with over 35 employees from discrimination based on sexual orientation. The January 19 vote of 8-3 followed 5 weeks of heated public hearings and overrode a veto issued by the mayor of Anchorage the week before. This bill was a compromise bill; the original bill would have protected all Anchorage citizens.

Strong opposition to the amendment has been spearheaded by the religious right.

In response to the passage of the bill, a group calling itself "Citizens to Repeal the Homosexual Ordinance" circulated a petition and collected enough signatures to put the issue to a public vote in the April elections. Their campaign is designed to fan the flames of fear and hate with misleading information. Already Anchorage has experienced a rise in hate crimes. Most recently two gay men were attacked with baseball bats by a group of teenagers in the parking lot of a local restaurant.

At present gay activists and allies are preparing a campaign to defeat the referendum proposed by the religious right, but we need your help. The election is

April 20th so we need to act fast. However, since we exhausted many of our local resources attempting to pass the initial amendment protecting gays and lesbians in Anchorage, we are asking all our friends in the lower 48 for help. Please send donations to Alaskans for Civil Rights, PO Box 20143, Anchorage, AK 99520 or for more information contact Kathleen Metcalf, campaign manager at (907) 258-3439. \\



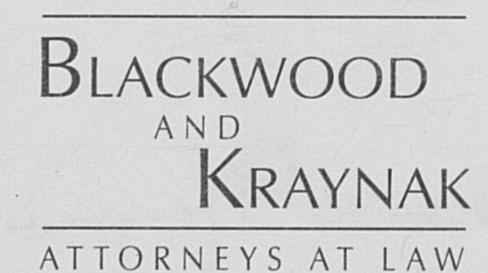
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Bennington Free Library Bennington College Bennington Library Record Rack Southern Vermont College

Brattleboro

Brattleboro Food CoopCahoots Common Ground

Everyone's Books

Burlington Burlington College Chassman & Bem Fletcher Free Library Partners in Recovery & Growth Peace & Justice Center Pearls

Castleton

Planned Parenthood

STEP Learning Center

Chester Misty Valley Books Chester

Craftsbury

Craftsbury Public Library Center Rutland

Rutland Area Gay/Lesbian Connection

**East Barnet** 

Innwood Manor

**East Hardwick** 

Greenhope Farm

Fair Haven

Fair Haven Free Library

Hardwick

Buffalo Mountain Coop

Galaxy Books

Lyndonville

Jon's Automotive

Project EXCEL, Lyndon State College

**Manchester Center** 

Northshire Bookstore

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Middlebury Natural Food Coop

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Bear Pond Books Horn of the Moon Cafe Rivendell Books Woman Centered

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Morristown Centennial Library

Newfane

Moore Free Library

Newport

Northeast Kingdom AIDS Coalition

Northfield

Brown Public Library

Norwich

Social Alternatives for Gay Men

Plainfield

Woman's Study Program

Putney

Putney Library

Randolph

Kimball Public Library

Rutland

**PFLAG** 

Rutland Free Library

St. Johnsbury

LUNA/NEVGALR c/o Umbrella

**Natural Provisions** 

Regional Library

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Stowe

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