

National/International News

Battles Have Been Won!

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Nevada Sodomy Law Repealed

Carson City, NV - Nevada Governor Bob Miller signed into law a bill to repeal Nevada's sodomy statute on June 16, 1993. This marks the first legislative repeal of a sodomy law since 1986 when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Bowers v. Hardwick* that homosexual sodomy is not constitutionally protected. First-year Nevada state senator Lori Lipman Brown introduced the bill to repeal the law. The 82 year old law was previously amended in 1977 to apply to sexual activity between members of the same sex only. The repeal measure passed both chambers by a more than two to one vote, following intense lobbying efforts by Nevadans for Constitutional Equality and the Nevada Association of Criminal Justice. (*Washington Blade*)

Colorado Supreme Court Blocks Amendment 2

Denver, CO - By a 6-1 majority, the Colorado Supreme Court in July upheld a lower court injunction against Amendment 2, the anti-gay rights law passed by voters last November. The court said that, "fundamental rights may not be submitted to a vote", and that the law appeared to violate the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution. The Court found that the measure would "fence out" homosexuals from the political process by prohibiting legal protection of a single group. "No other identifiable group faces such a burden, No other group's ability to participate in the political process is restricted and encumbered in a like manner. Such a structuring of the political process is contrary to the notion that the concept of 'We The People' visualizes."

Amendment 2 has lead to a boycott of Colorado that has cost the state more

than \$35 million in lost connvetion business. Petitions for measures similar to Amendment 2 are currently circulating in Florida, Maine, Idaho, and Michigan, all campaigns backed by the religious right. (*New York Times, Washington Blade*)

NY Republicans Kill Civil Rights Bill

Albany, NY - Republican senators, meeting behind closed doors, killed an attempt to pass a statewide lesbian and gay civil rights bill without allowing it to come to the floor for public debate. The bill passed the New York stae Assembly by a vote of 90-50, after a 20 year effort. Republican Majority Leader Ralph Marino killed the bill telling reporters "I am throughly convinced that my conference doesn't want this bill passed and therefore it will not see the floor. I oppose discrimination but I'm not sure you can legislate against it". This despite a statement by Marino earlier in the year that he supported "reasonable measures" to bar discrimination. It was a bitter blow to the lobbying efforts of the Pride Agenda, Gay Men's Health Crisis, New York Civil Liberties Union and a host of labor, religious and good government groups. (*Community*)

Ohio Rep. Introduces Bill to Prohibit Domestic Partner Inclusion

Columbus, OH - On July 20, 1993 Representative Fox introduced legislation in the Ohio House of Representatives that would prohibit state universities and colleges from opening "family housing" to same sex couples (by listing who could live in such housing) and prohibiting the universities and colleges from providing insurance coverage to same sex partners of employees. (*Action Alert*)

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