

Anti-gay Activity

The following is a state-by-state listing of antigay legal activity, summarized from a recent People for the American Way report, Hostile Climate. Organizations fighting antigay discrimination are listed where known.

ALABAMA

The state legislature in 1992 approved a bill prohibiting gay student groups from receiving state funds or using campus buildings, asserting that the group encouraged violation of the state sodomy law.

ALASKA

In April, 1993, the Anchorage Assembly repealed a previously approved gayrights ordinance. A similar humanrights law lost in Juneau in 1992.

ARIZONA

The Traditional Values Coalition of Arizona, related to Rev. Lou Sheldon's TVC in California, plans to add an antigay measure to the state ballot in 1994.

ARKANSAS

In April, the Assembly approved the state's first civilrights bill. Antigay discrimination was included in the original draft of the bill, but was amended partly because of Religious Right protest.

CALIFORNIA

A statewide antigay measure is planned for the 1994 ballot, according to Rev. Lou Sheldon of the Traditional Values Coalition. TVC also wants the state constitution, rather than statutes, to make gay marriage illegal. That bill, introduced to the state senate in March, is currently in committee. Fundamentalists are threatening a boycott of San Francisco for its progay laws and reputation as home of the gay movement.

COLORADO

Amendment 2, which won by 53 percent in November, 1992, is still in legal limbo, awaiting a ruling by the Colorado state trial court to turn the preliminary injunction against Amendment 2 into a permanent one. The two-week trial ended Oct. 22. If the permanent injunction is granted, the state is expected to appeal to the Colorado Supreme Court. In May, the chair of Colorado for Family Values would offer a similar measure in 1994 if Amendment 2 is invalidated.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The District's sodomy law was repealed in April, becoming law in September. In July, the U.S. Senate voted to stop funding to District's Health Care Benefits Expansion Act, which allowed city workers to include domestic partners in their health insurance.

FLORIDA

Florida's American Family Association is planning an antigay measure for the November elections. Tampa's gayrights ordinance was repealed last year, but a gayrights ordinance was passed 32 In another county in April. Write: Human Rights Task Force, 1222 S. Dale Mabry, Tampa, FL 33629/(813) 273-8769.

GEORGIA

The Georgia House of Representatives' House Education Committee is reviewing a bill which allows parents and local school boards to decide that "If homosexuality is mentioned at all (in the curriculum) it must be pointed out that homosexuality is illegal in the state of Georgia." The house can act on the bill when it reconvenes in January. Despite the lobbying of Family Concerns, a Religious Right group, Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson signed a bill in July allowing domestic partner registration and extending health benefits to domestic partners of city employees.

HAWAII

In May, the state Supreme Court overturned a lower court's dismissal of a lawsuit challenging the state's ban on same-sex marriage. The case will go to a lower court for trial, but the deputy attorney general and The Straight Majority, a group organized to fight the "radical, militant homosexual agenda" have expressed opposition to a same-sex marriage ruling.

IDAHO

The Idaho Citizens Alliance, led by a former Oregon citizens Alliance vice chairman, plans to put an antigay initiative on the 1994 ballot. The City Council of Idaho Falls, which originally supported the measure, has decided to oppose it after carefully reading its text. Write to: Idaho for Human Dignity, P.O. Box 797, Boise, ID 83701 (208) 344-4295.

ILLINOIS

The 1993 gayrights bill made it through the House in April but was rejected in Senate committee. The Illinois Federation for Human Rights and other groups are currently lobbying for the 1994 bill.

INDIANA

The Lafayette City Council approved an antigay discrimination law in May; the Bloomington City Council adopted an ordinance discouraging, but not banning, antigay discrimination in July.

IOWA

In March the Des Moines City Council implicitly approved gay rights by adopting an ordinance that prohibits discrimination against any group, so long as they obey local, state and federal laws. The council rejected adopting a specifically gay-oriented measure.

KANSAS

Eighteen House Republicans are sponsoring an antigay rights bill to be introduced to the legislature in 1994. Rev. Fred Phelps, a militant antigay activist, has led protests for two years, including picketing the funerals of people who died of AIDS.

KENTUCKY

The state Supreme Court overturned the ban on sodomy in 1992, but a state rep. plans to add a measure to the 1994 ballot that would constitutionally criminalize sodomy. The state legislature will take action on the bill in 1994.

MAINE

Concerned Maine Families has planned a Coloradostyle antigay measure for the 1994 state ballot. Gov. John McKernan vetoed a gayrights bill in May. The Lewiston gayrights ordinance, first approved in 1992, was overturned in the Nov. 3 elections. Write to the New England Fight the Right Field Office, 1151 Massachusetts Ave. Cambridge, MA 02138, (617) 492-6393.

MARYLAND

In January, a state Senate committee defeated a bill that would have made discrimination against gays and lesbians in housing and employment illegal. The 65 vote came after lobbying by Concerned Women for America.

MASSACHUSETTS

In May, the state Board of Education endorsed guidelines for sensitivity training for gay and lesbian issues for teachers and protection against harassment for gay and lesbian students. The endorsement, which schools are not required to adopt was opposed by Family First, an anti-gay rights group.

MICHIGAN

The Michigan Family Values Committee plans to introduce an antigay rights bill in the November, 1994 election and has begun collecting signatures to put the measure on the ballot. Write to: Michigan Campaign for Human Dignity, PO Box 28363, Lansing, MI 48909-8363/ (517) a87-2605

MINNESOTA

In April, Minnesota became the eighth state to add sexual orientation to its humanrights ordinance. In May, apparently in response to the Hawaii marriage case, a bill was introduced to the state senate to invalidate all marriages from other states "Contracted between persons of the same gender." The senate can take action in February.

MISSOURI

The Amendment Coalition is planning to put an antigay rights bill on the November, 1994 statewide ballot. If passed, the bill would nullify gayrights ordinances in four cities, including Kansas City, which passed its ordinance in June. In January, a state senator attempted to institute a ban on