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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4503

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Knowing of your interest in issues affecting the gay and lesbian community, I wanted to let you know that I have become an original cosponsor of S. 2238, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 1994 (ENDA), which was introduced earlier today. As you know, federal law already prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of race, gender, religion, national origin, age and disability. The ENDA would extend this protection to sexual orientation as well.

Like all other Americans, gays and lesbians deserve to be judged at work on the basis of their ability to do the job. The principles of equality and opportunity should apply to all Americans without regard to their sexual orientation. The ENDA is an important step in closing the gap between such principles and the reality faced by gays and lesbians in their daily lives.

Twenty-five years after Stonewall, this gap is still too wide. Many state and local governments have taken the lead in prohibiting job discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. More than 100 mayors and governors across the land have signed laws and issued orders protecting gay and lesbian employees. In 1992, Vermont joined six other states plus the District of Columbia in enacting its own sexual orientation discrimination law. Now it's time for the federal government to provide such protection as well.

Thanks for your interest and attention. Please keep in touch.

Sincerely,

  
James M. Jeffords

JMJ:rej

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