

Commentary We're Off To See The Wizard Again!

Paul Olsen


Courage. Like the cowardly lion, Vermont's junior Senator James Jeffords needs to pay a visit to the Wizard of OZ. I'm referring to his failure to sign on as a co-sponsor of the Federal Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Act (also known as the Civil Rights Amendment Act). When passed, this bill will prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation nationwide.

In the past Senator Jeffords has failed to respond to letters and phone calls regarding this issue. However, I did speak with him on a radio call-in show where, while claiming to support civil rights for all, he explained that he "was not prepared to sign onto that bill." Apparently when it comes to civil rights for lesbian and gay Americans our "maverick" senator supports his party's platform and wears a hat similar to fellow Republicans Jesse Helms, Patrick Buchanan, David Duke, and Vermont's own John McLaughry.

While Jim Jeffords follows the global yellow brick road "fact finding" and commenting on the oppression faced by many people throughout the world he remains unaware that many lesbian and gay Americans have no legal protection against discrimination in the areas of employment, housing, credit, and child custody.

I believe that Senator James Jeffords needs to hear from supporters of lesbian

and gay rights. *Out in The Mountains* has approximately 2500 readers. Even an entrenched politician who is not currently facing re-election cannot ignore letters and phone calls from thousands of constituents. Write Senator James Jeffords at U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510 or call him toll-free at 1-800-835-5500 and ask him to: 1) represent Vermont which recently passed an anti-discrimination statute, 2) join Senator Patrick Leahy and Representative Bernard Sanders as co-sponsors of this critical piece of civil rights legislation, and 3) explain to him that, unlike the Wicked Witch, he won't melt if he signs on as a co-sponsor of this bill. ▼



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Battles Have Been Won!

Support the Vermont Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men

In their continuing efforts to maintain and ensure the legal protections won in 1992 for the members of the gay men's, lesbian, and bisexual communities.

Educational efforts bringing about lasting social change.

Add my name to your mailing list.

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

Mail form and donations to:

Vermont Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men
PO Box 1125
Montpelier, VT 05602

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Thank You!

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