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For lesbian and gay Vermonters, perhaps Squires' most important act as a legislator was his testimony just before the vote on the civil rights act last April. In a moving and eloquent speech, without notes, he described how it felt to listen to the legislature debate "whether or not I have the same rights and privileges as the other members in the body", how he was gay-bashed as a UVM student in 1972, and of "hearing an off-duty Brattleboro police officer in 1991 say that it was a foolish contribution to make (to the AIDS Project Walk) because the queers were getting what they deserved."

Squires' mother said his family has supported him as a gay man and when he developed AIDS. "The only thing that hurts me is that where he wanted to be in politics will be cut short." Keith Goslant of the Vermont Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men described Squires' effectiveness as a legislator an advocate for gay civil rights; "Ron really personalized for legislators why there was a need to do this (pass the legislation). In his two years in the legislature he showed other members that we do real work and do make a difference." Said Speaker Ralph Wright, "If Ron did anything to leave behind for us, he made it OK for us to do the right thing." ▼

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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.

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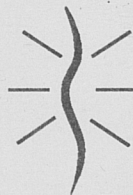
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