

LGBT History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA

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Title: *PA Rural Gay Caucus Letter*

Date: May 10, 1976

Location: LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

Contact:

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Phase II
Gay Rural Caucus
Gay Education Day
Box 218
State College, Pa., 16801

Dear sisters and brothers,

When the state legislature reconvenes on May 10, a bill will be introduced to repeal "Voluntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse" (section 3124 of the Pa. Crime Code). The results from Gay Education Day have indicated a strong chance for the passage of this bill. But in order to insure success, there is much that we as individuals and organizations can and MUST do. The following are some strategies you should use to help in this all-important campaign.

To begin with, it will be extremely helpful for your organization to set up a local committee to coordinate these efforts. Since time is essential, we must move efficiently to be effective.

1) Compile a mailing list of all local potentially sympathetic groups. Type names and addresses onto 3x5 cards and send to Barry Kohn, Community Advocate Unit, 344 N. Broad, Phila., Pa. 19102. These will be used in a state-wide mail appeal for support.

2) Supply your local "switchboard" with a copy of the enclosed list of legislators, addresses and districts.

3) As soon as the bill is introduced, you will receive a copy of it with its number. You should immediately begin this most important part of the campaign. Within several days, we would like to flood the capitol with at least 50,000 letters urging our individual senators and representatives to vote "yes" on repeal. Reach as many people as you can (friends, relatives, coworkers, etc.) to write a letter of support. You can do this by posters and leaflets in your local bars and by sending speaking delegations to sympathetic organizations. Start a phone drive to call everyone you know and urge them to write. Solicit letters from college groups, faculty unions, teacher's associations, women's and men's groups, C*R groups, black and other civil rights groups (ACLU, Common Cause) and friendly churches (Unitarian, Society of Friends), appealing to both their leaders and members. Remind students to write BOTH their home AND local legislators regardless of where they vote. It is not necessary to mention being gay. Enclosed is a list of several good reasons for repeal which you may use.

4) Form small local delegations composed of gay people and members of NOW, ACLU (etc.) to visit your area legislators and lobby for support and sponsorship. If they are willing to be a co-sponsor, contact Mark Segal of the Legislation Committee of the Governor's Council for Sexual Minorities, (215) 242-2657.

The passage of the repeal bill depends on the success of this "blitz" campaign. We must mobilize all our energy and effort QUICKLY to make our power and influence felt in Harrisburg. If we are to have our rights, then we must be committed to working for them. ACT NOW! Help us rid Pennsylvania of its archaic and oppressive sodomy statutes. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact:

(HOPS)
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HOPS Legislation
Box 218
State College, Pa.
16801

(Rural Caucus)
Bill Hollabaugh
3358 E. Bculevard
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(Gov.'s Council)
Mark Segal
8111 Fayeete St.
Phila., Pa.
19150

In gay solidarity,

Alan LaPayover
Alan LaPayover
Homophiles of Penn State

for the Rural Caucus.