

LGBT History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA

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Title: *PA Rural Gay Caucus Memo*

Date: February 18, 1977

Location: LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

Contact:

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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Persons interested in opposing anti-homosexual legislation
FROM: Joseph N. Burns, Mary Nancarrow, Pa. Rural Gay Caucus
DATE: February 18, 1977
SUBJ: Senate Bill No. 83

On January 4, 1977, five state Senators introduced Senate Bill 83 which prohibits homosexuals from being hired for specific state employment. These jobs include:

- 1) State policemen
- 2) state correctional guards or staff
- 3) Correctional counselors
- 4) state probation officers
- 5) officers, nurses, and staff for any state institution dealing with mental illness and mental retardation and
- 6) officers and staff for any state institution which treats or rehabilitates individuals suffering from physical handicaps.

We can only conclude that these jobs were chosen because of the unfounded stereotypes about homosexuals, common in our society. It is important that we respond to this bill now because many legislators will assume that this bill represents the general sentiment of most Pennsylvanians. This is the only organized effort opposing the bill.

We urge you to take the following steps to oppose this bill.

1. Write the the following Senators who sponsored the bill voicing your opposition:

Senator Joseph Smith, Chairperson, State Government Committee
Senator Thomas Nolan
Senator Martin Murray
Senator James Ross
Senator Patrick Stapelton

Address: Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, Pa. 17120

2. Call the Governor's Hotline - toll free number 800-932-0784 and tell them you want these five Senators to be told of your opposition to the bill.

3. Call ten friends and ask them to do the same.

4. Print this information in your local organizational newsletter.

5. Write to your own Senator and representative telling them to vote against the bill.

For more information about this legislation call Barry Kohn, (215) 238 7351.

Please make your opposition known today since we understand that some legislators want to move this bill through the Legislature quickly.

If you have an extra stamp we would appreciate receiving copies of your letters for future use. Send them to Joseph W. Burns, 1136 Walnut Street, Allentown, Pa. 18102.