

From: Kara S. Suffredini, Esq., MassEquality Executive Director
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MassEquality Executive Director
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2011 3:34 PM
To: Mike
Subject: More lies

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More lies

Dear Mike,

This week, the Transgender Equal Rights Coalition [released a video](#) highlighting the lies that opponents of the Transgender Equal Rights Bill are spreading to generate opposition to the bill. Video footage comes from testimony given by leading opponents of the Transgender Equal Rights Bill during a June 8 hearing before the Joint Committee on the Judiciary. You can see the video [here](#).

Meanwhile, opponents of the bill released two radio ads this week in order to generate more calls to lawmakers from bill opponents. Please take a moment to contact your state rep and state senator to let them know of your support for the bill. They can't hear from us too often.

And send a letter to the editor of your hometown paper — like [this one](#) [scroll to the third one down] published last week in the Arlington Advocate — expressing support for the bill. Lawmakers need to know that the public wants this bill passed!

Lastly, Transgender Awareness Week is just one week away. Dedicated to raising awareness about the transgender community and the issues it faces, this week will feature events and educational opportunities around the state.

For a complete list of activities, [click here](#).



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In case you missed it
On National Coming Out Day,

MassEquality will be spending the week working to pass the Transgender Equal Rights Bill — and you can help!

Join us for a phone banking session in support of the bill. We hold them every Tuesday and Thursday night at our office from 6 to 9pm. During phone banks, we talk to constituents and transfer supporters of the bill directly to their lawmakers' voicemail boxes so they can leave messages in support of the bill. Call Justin at [617.878.2344](tel:617.878.2344) to sign up or [send him an email!](#)

Hate on the Airwaves

The Anti-Defamation League has called on state Sen. Robert Hedlund, who hosts a weekly radio program on WATD, to stop taking calls from a guest who repeatedly engages in homophobic, transphobic, and anti-Semitic views. In a statement, Robert Trestan, Eastern States Civil Rights Counsel for the ADL said, "We expect elected officials to act with greater responsibility."

We agree and join the ADL in asking Sen. Hedlund to stop polluting the public airwaves with hate speech.

Defeating DOMA

Today, the US Senate Judiciary Committee [voted](#) 10-8 to approve the Respect for Marriage Act, which would repeal the so-called "Defense of Marriage Act."

A majority of Americans believe legally married couples should not be singled out and denied fundamental rights by their government. Every member of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation — except US Sen. Scott Brown — supports the Respect for Marriage Act.

The Human Rights Campaign [sent a letter](#) to the Committee signed by Gov. **Deval Patrick** of Massachusetts; Gov. **Andrew Cuomo** of New York; Gov. **Lincoln Chafee** of Rhode Island; Gov. **Dannel Malloy** of Connecticut; Gov. **Martin O'Malley** of Maryland; Gov. **Peter Shumlin** of Vermont; Mayor **Michael Bloomberg** of

lawmakers came out in support of the Transgender Equal Rights Bill. [Click here](#) for photos of the event! And [click here](#) for video news coverage!

The Boston Phoenix [urged lawmakers](#) to pass the bill.

A transgender woman [writes about courage](#)—and the kind it will take to pass the bill.

Upcoming Events

Through Nov. 21 on Wed. and Thurs. at 7:30pm, Fri. at 8pm, Sat. at 4 and 8pm, Sun. at 3pm, and Tues. Nov. 15 at 7:30pm. **The Divine Sister, an inspired homage to every Hollywood film made about nuns.** Presented by MassEquality corporate sponsor SpeakEasy Stage Company, 539 Tremont St., Boston. [Tickets \\$25-\\$55.](#)

Fri., Nov. 11 from 6:30 to 10pm. The **Hispanic Black Gay Coalition will hold its annual cocktail reception** and honor author James Earl Hardy, activist JHA D. Williams, and a local community group for their contributions to LGBTQ communities of color. At the Holiday Day Inn, 30

New York, NY; Mayor **John DeStefano, Jr.** of New Haven, CT; Mayor **Bill Finch** of Bridgeport, CT; Mayor **Vincent C. Gray** of Washington, DC; Mayor **Edwin Lee** of San Francisco, CA; Mayor **Thomas Menino** of Boston, MA; Mayor **Jerry Sanders** of San Diego, CA; Mayor **Pedro E. Segarra** of Hartford, CT; and Mayor **Antonio Villaraigosa** of Los Angeles, CA. California Gov. **Jerry Brown** – whose state recognizes a limited amount of same-sex couples married before the passage of Prop 8 – submitted [a separate letter](#) to the committee in support of the RMA.

As the Governors and Mayors write in the letter, “[t]he federal government should not be in the business of picking which marriages it likes and which it does not, but that is exactly what DOMA does. We urge you to pass the Respect for Marriage Act and ensure that all families are afforded equal protections and equal dignity.”

Election Results

Congratulations to Holyoke Mayor-Elect Alex Morse. The 22-year-old is a former member of the Massachusetts GLBT Youth Commission and the youngest gay mayor in the country. And Attleboro voters elected three gay candidates to office by giving Attleboro Mayor Kevin Dumas another term and electing Jeremy Denlea and Mark Cooper to the city council.

In one more election of note, voters in Pima County, Arizona [elected](#) Daniel Hernandez, Jr. to the local school board. Hernandez, who is gay, is the former intern of US Rep. Gabrielle Giffords who helped save her life by administering critical first aid care moments after she was shot.

Sincerely,



Kara S. Suffredini, Esq.
Executive Director

Washington St.,
Somerville. [Tickets are \\$30; \\$40 at the door and \\$15 for students.](#)

Sun., Nov. 13 from 12:30-3:30pm. Join us at the [Boston Gay and Lesbian Wedding Expo](#) at Boston Marriott Quincy, 1000 Marriott Dr., Quincy.

Wed., Nov. 16 from 6-8:30pm. **The LGBT Aging Project honors MassEquality founding board member David Wilson.** At Microsoft New England Research and Development Center, 1 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, Mass. [Tickets are \\$75.](#)

Fri., Nov. 18 from 5-7pm. **Mass Alliance hosts “Progressive Prospects 2012”** with US Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt). At MANTRA, 52 Temple Pl., Boston. [Tickets \\$50; \\$35 for activists and students.](#)

We're hiring!

MassEquality is looking for a [Field Director](#) and [Community Engagement Organizer](#).

[About MassEquality](#)



MassEquality works to ensure that every lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender person in Massachusetts is protected from cradle to grave—with equal rights and opportunities in school, in marriage and family life, at work and in retirement.

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