

**From:** Kara S. Suffredini, Esq., MassEquality Executive Director  
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**Sent:** Thursday, February 17, 2011 4:11 PM  
**To:** Mike  
**Subject:** Historic Protections for Transgender State Workers

MassEquality.org Update - [View The Web Version Here](#)

The logo for MassEquality.org, featuring the word "MASS" in blue, a stylized "E" with a red horizontal bar, and "QUALITY" in blue, followed by ".ORG" in a smaller font.

## Historic Protections for Transgender State Workers

**Dear Mike,**

Great news for transgender workers in the Commonwealth.

Earlier today, Gov. Deval Patrick signed an historic Executive Order prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity and expression in state employment. It applies to all state agencies in the Executive Branch, as well as businesses and organizations that contract with the Executive Branch.

This order is an excellent first step towards creating a Commonwealth where all hardworking people, including transgender people, have the opportunity to make a living and provide for themselves and their families.

Please join me in [thanking Governor Patrick](#) for this historic move. And, then, [contact your legislators](#) and urge them to pass the Transgender Equal Rights bill, so that *all* transgender workers have the same protection.

Many people who need the protection offered by this executive order will not get it because they are not state employees. A study released earlier this month by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force found that 76 percent of transgender respondents from Massachusetts were harassed or mistreated on the job, and 20 percent reported losing their jobs, because they are transgender.



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### 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.*

No one should have to live in fear that they can be legally fired for reasons that have nothing to do with their job performance.

Today's Executive Order is merely the latest act by Gov. Patrick showing his commitment to our community, from shoring up marriage equality to streamlining the process by which transgender men and women can get proper state IDs.

Now it's up to lawmakers to do the rest. Please contact your Representative and Senator and ask them to match the Governor's commitment by passing the Transgender Equal Rights Bill this session.

Sincerely,

**Kara S. Suffredini, Esq.**

*Executive Director*



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