

Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance

Fighting for equal rights since 1971
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Celebrating victories while confronting new threats.

Dear Friend of GLAA:

The current [assault against D.C. legislation](#) by Heritage Action, Catholic University, and Cardinal Wuerl, in concert with right-wing politicians like Sen. Ted Cruz, reminds us that our work for equality is not done. Our progressive city, where no anti-gay bills are even introduced in the D.C. Council, is still targeted by the same anti-democratic forces that are behind the wave of religious supremacy bills mislabeled "religious freedom" in statehouses across the country.

Mutual respect in the public square is crucial to civic order in a diverse society. Imposing faith-based exemptions to the District's Human Rights Act, as Congress did in the late 1980s with the anti-gay [Armstrong Amendment](#) (which we are trying to repeal), undermines the secular values that protect the rights of all. So we have joined with other local and national groups and D.C. officials to fight back.

At the same time, we need renewal for the work ahead. Please join us at our reception on **April 23** at [Policy Restaurant and Lounge](#) as we celebrate our successes and honor the [distinguished service](#) of activists Alexandra Beninda and Chuck Hicks and D.C. Council staffer Anne Phelps.

Experienced, independent voices are still needed, year-in and year-out, to defend LGBT interests in the face of new challenges. Those challenges are outlined in our 2015 policy brief, [Building on Victory](#), the fruit of consultation with activists from across our community. Coalitions, expertise, and engagement with policymakers are the keys to our 44 years of success.

GLAA has been busy. With our Election Project we [got answers](#) on LGBT issues from candidates in the April 28 special election. With our allies we won prohibition of [dangerous "ex-gay" therapy](#) for minors; monitored [police reform efforts](#); and won repeal of unconstitutional ["Prostitution-Free Zones"](#). We are working to [legalize surrogacy parenting](#) agreements, and to set [cultural competency standards](#) for District healthcare providers. We are working with Rainbow History Project to [preserve our archives](#).

Our volunteer approach gives a great return on your activist dollars. Maintaining the chops to get policies enacted and implemented requires sustained commitment. You are part of that.

Please join us on April 23 at **Policy** (1904 14th Street NW) for drinks and hors d'oeuvres as we renew our commitment to the fight for equality. You can RSVP using our [anniversary flyer](#) or via PayPal at <http://glaa.org/anniversary/>. We look forward to seeing you.

In solidarity,

Rick Rosendall
President
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