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# Special Invitation to Equality Texas Lobby Days 2007



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**EQUALITY**

Today's vision.  
Tomorrow's reality.

T E X A S

Special Notice

## Friends and Family:

I want to share with you an activity that is close to my heart, making a difference in civil rights by taking direct action at the State Capitol.

For the past several years while the legislature is in session, I have been attending marches, testifying before committee hearings, visiting with legislators, and working with groups in regard to legislation geared towards protecting the rights of LGBT Texans. If you have known me for any length of time, you know it has become my passion.

This year I was able to meet with transgender activists from across the state, and with members of Equality Texas to strategize plans for this years grassroots campaign. For the first time in a long while, a major statewide LGBT rights organization is going to seriously take into account the realities of transgender, transsexual, and gender “non-normative” persons into account. “Gender Identity and Expression” will be new by-words alongside sexual orientation in terms of civil rights legislation proposed.

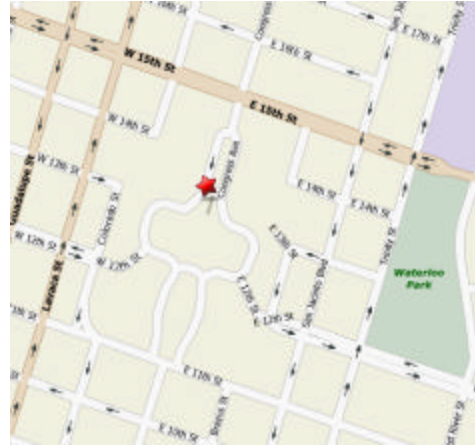
In the short time I have done this, some things have struck at my core. What does grassroots activism really mean and how is it accomplished? Well, the strategy in the past has been to get fair numbers of volunteers from mainly large Texas cities to speak to key legislators. But, the real magic and power in grassroots activism is in the fact that it is community based.

By building from our community outwards, not only do we have the time to work with and educate our neighbors by showing them who we are face-to-face, but we form a bond with them that outstrips any legislation proposed.

As I mentioned the need to focus on small and mid sized towns in this meeting I went to, I was flattered by the response. Randall Terrell, the legal director/liason for Equality Texas, had a practice in Stephenville, Tx. He knew all too well the passion and power of small town people sharing their time and lives with the people that represented them. He and I both agreed that we need to make sufficient showings of support, statistically important numbers of people sharing their personal stories with their legislators in how this legislation will affect them, their family, friends, and community. Too many times the dollars speak with the only voice to these representatives. It is about time we showed people like Fred Brown more than our green, it is time we showed him the red and blue of our hearts.

I encourage you to come with me to Austin on March 5th. Share your views and your stories, and tell our state legislators what we think. Some of the legislation pending this 2007 session in the Texas House and Senate is listed below for your review. Please, be a part of this event. I will be there taking pictures, and will be sending out another update afterwards in regard to how things went. But, better yet...why not be there with me?

Our love to all of you,  
Katy Stewart and Family



#### Equality Texas Legislative Agenda

[House Bill 900](#)

Freedom from Workplace and Housing Discrimination Act

[House Bill 833](#)

Relating to the prevention of harassment in public schools

[House Bill 68](#)

Relating to the creation of an anti-bullying hotline

[House Bill 305](#)

Relating to a prohibition of discrimination by public educational institutions

[House Bill 307](#)

Relating to the prohibition of employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity

[House Bill 247](#)

Relating to prohibition of certain insurance discrimination

**From:** <http://eqfed.org/eqtx/events/lobbyday07/details.tcl>

**“Lobby Day at the Capitol is Monday, March 5, 2007.**

Direct, in-person communication with your legislator is an incredibly powerful action. Please register now to be a part of Equality Texas's Lobby Day 2007.

**NOTE : Register at <http://www.equalitytexas.org/>**

**If you have questions about Lobby Day 2007, please contact Equality Texas Field Assistant Bren Gorman at [Bren@EqualityTexas.org](mailto:Bren@EqualityTexas.org)**

Join hundreds of citizens who oppose public policy discrimination against Texans and their families based upon sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. Don't miss this opportunity to share your concerns and your lives with the Texas lawmakers elected to represent you.

Lobby Day events will start on Sunday, March 4th with an Opening Reception at the host hotel, the Wyndham Garden Hotel - Austin. See Lobby Day FAQs.

The schedule for Monday, March 5th includes:

8:00 – 9:00am Breakfast & Check-In (The Capitol Grill , Extension Room E1.002)

9:00am Press conference on the South Steps

9:30am Photo Opportunity on the South Steps

10:00 – 11:00am Lobby Training (Capitol Extension Auditorium, Room E1.004)

11:00 – 12:00pm Team Lobby Visits

12:00 – 1:00pm Boxed-Lunch provided by Equality Texas

1:00 – 3:00pm Finish assigned team lobby visits and visit your legislator

3:00 – 4:00pm Thank you letters and debrief

**Our Lobby Day Partners:**

