



News from Congressman

Tom Lantos

**12th Congressional District of California
San Mateo/San Francisco**

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Landmark Human Rights Legislation Will Protect Lesbian Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Individuals Worldwide

Washington, DC – Congressman Tom Lantos (D-CA) has just introduced bipartisan legislation to prevent human rights abuses due to real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

Lantos, the ranking member of the House International Relations Committee and the co-chair of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, said the new International Human Rights Equity Resolution (H. Con. Res. 330) “shines a light on a particularly dark corner of human rights abuse” – actions committed against someone specifically for being or appearing to be lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered.

The legislation condemns all such human rights violations, affirms that they should be considered crimes that result in punishment, and calls on the U.S. State Department to continue improving its documentation of these abuses and to develop a strategy to combat them.

Lantos noted that the resolution “highlights one of the most under-reported and unrecognized areas of egregious human rights violations.”

The legislation has been endorsed by Amnesty International, the Human Rights Campaign, Human Rights Watch and the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission. The bill’s main Republican co-sponsor is Representative Chris Shays (R-CT); 44 other members have signed on to show their support.

Lantos said, “We believe very strongly that we must send a clear message that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people must be treated with the same dignity and respect as every human being, and not with the hatred and violence that they face in all too many places in the world.”

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