

Forty-seven percent of U.S. gays protected from discrimination

But work is still ahead of us — federal bill stalled the last decade

by **Roberta Sklar**

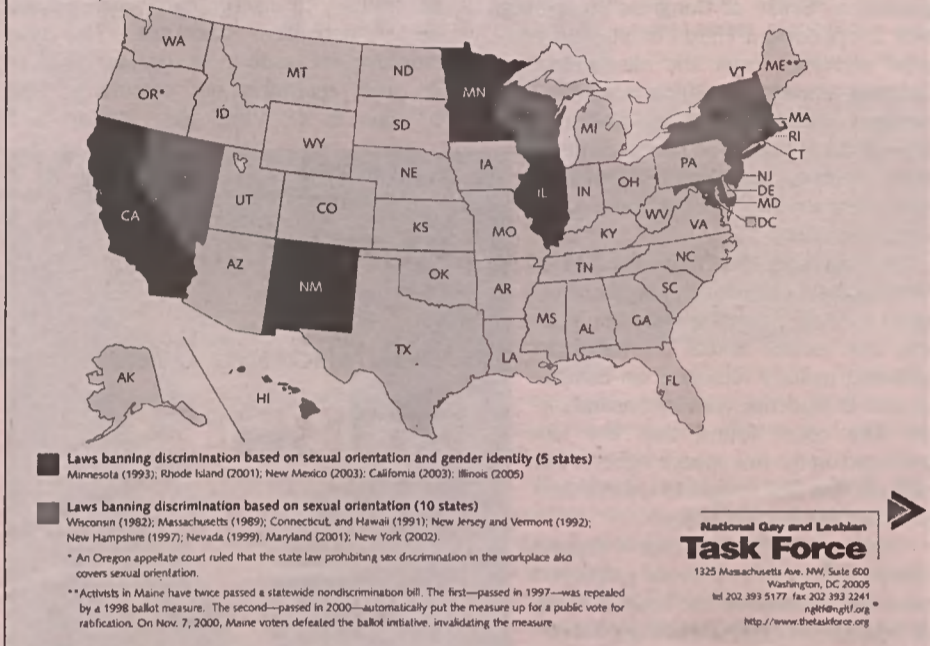
With Illinois acting Jan. 18 to ban anti-gay discrimination, 47 percent of the U.S.

“Thanks to the hard work of grassroots activists, the glass of basic fairness for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans is slowly filling up,” said Sean Cahill (pictured), director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy

that bans discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

- Another 79 million live in a place that bans discrimination against transgendered people. Ten years ago, only 9.7 million Americans lived in a jurisdiction that banned such discrimination.
- However, 156 million Americans, or 53 percent of the U.S. population, live in a state or jurisdiction where one can be fired, refused service in a restaurant or denied housing or a loan simply because of his/her actual or perceived sexual orientation.
- Two hundred and fifteen million Americans, or 73 percent of the U.S. population, live in a jurisdiction where a person can be fired, refused service in a restaurant, or denied housing or a loan simply because of his/her actual or perceived gender identity or expression.
- Fifteen states ban discrimination based on sexual orientation. The first state to ban anti-gay discrimination was 1982 in Wisconsin.
- Five states ban discrimination based on gender identity and expression. The first state to ban anti-transgender discrimination was Minnesota in 1993.
- Washington, D.C., and more than 200 towns, cities and counties, also ban sexual orientation discrimination, and more than 70 local jurisdictions ban anti-transgender discrimination.

State Nondiscrimination Laws in the U.S.
(as of January 2005)



This map shows the areas of the United States where LGBT citizens live free from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

population — 138 million people — now live in a jurisdiction that bans discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, according to an analysis by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute. Ten years ago, the figure was 34 percent.



The analysis also found that more than one in four Americans — 27 percent — now lives in a jurisdiction that bans discrimination against transgender persons, up from four percent 10 years ago and five percent just five years ago. Illinois's law also bans discrimination based on gender identity and expression.

Institute. “While we have a long way to go until all of us are protected from discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations, the progress is undeniable and unstoppable.”

The Policy Institute analysis concluded that the actions of state legislatures and town councils reflected strong public support for laws protecting gay and transgender people from discrimination.

As nondiscrimination protections have spread across the nation at the local and state level, a federal bill to ban anti-gay discrimination in employment has languished in Congress for nearly a decade.

Some Facts:

- As stated, nearly 138 million Americans now live in a state or local jurisdiction

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