

N.C. representatives sponsor anti-discrimination legislation

Equality NC secures introduction of bill to protect LGBT state employees

On April 14 Representatives Paul Luebke (D-Durham) and Larry Womble (D-Forsyth) introduced a bill to expand the scope of the anti-discrimination provisions of the *State Personnel Act*, the law that protects state employees. The bill adds sexual orientation to the list of protected classes in the law, and defines sexual orientation to include protection on the basis of gender identity or expression.

Equality North Carolina (ENC) worked closely with Luebke and Womble to craft the language of the bill.

Along with Luebke and Womble, 22 other representatives signed on as cosponsors. This represents the largest number of sponsors for a pro-LGBT bill in North Carolina history. ENC achieved this success by a combination of strong professional lobbying and grassroots action



State Reps. Paul Luebke (left) and Larry Womble are responsible for adding sexual orientation to the anti-discrimination provisions of the *State Personnel Act*.



through its Lobby Day and online advocacy program.

"We are excited to see so many legislators supporting our efforts to end discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in state government," said Ian Palmquist, executive director - programs. "This new level of support demonstrates that, while legislative change is a long process, Equality North Carolina's efforts are moving our community forward.



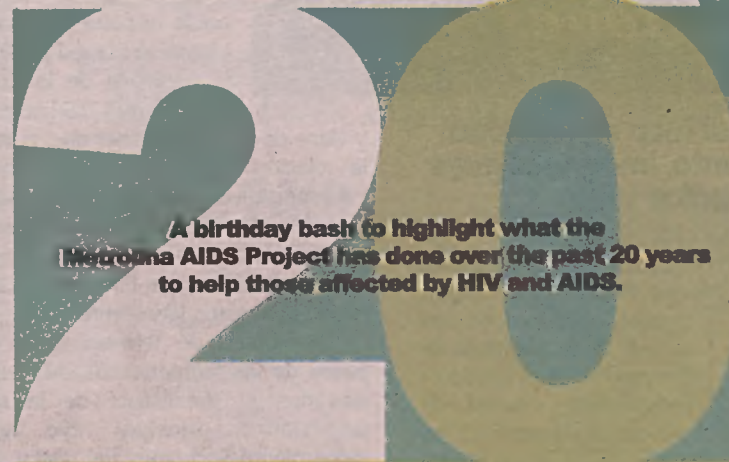
"We particularly recognize and thank the 14 members of the House Black Caucus who are standing with us in our fight for equal rights and justice by sponsoring this bill," Palmquist added.

The bill was referred to the House Rules Committee. ENC is working to secure

a hearing and a vote on the bill in the coming weeks.

For more information on the bill, including a list of sponsors, visit: www.equalitync.org/leg/2005-h1203.shtml.

Guess Who's Turning



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Metrolina AIDS Project

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