

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Responds to President Bush's State of the Union Address

January 23, 2007

President George W. Bush gave his sixth State of the Union address tonight. Statement by Matt Foreman, Executive Director, **National Gay and Lesbian Task Force**:

"Tonight, President Bush told us that he will ignore the central message of the 2006 congressional elections: end the unsupported, unwarranted and utterly unnecessary bloody war in Iraq. The nightmare in the Middle East continues unabated.

"But perhaps the election results served to check the president's use of dangerous wedge politics since he chose not to lobby for a federal constitutional amendment to ban marriage rights for same-sex couples. Even the congressional co-sponsors of the amendment announced the demise of the so-called Federal Marriage Amendment. While this is positive news, it hardly erases the last six years of legislative and policy attacks our community has suffered under this administration.

"We look forward to working with the new, more fair-minded Congress to repair the hurt created by President Bush's disastrous domestic and international policies and to restore our nation's reputation as a society in which dignity, equality and justice are available for all."

The mission of the **National Gay and Lesbian Task Force** is to build the political power of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community from the ground up. We do this by training activists, organizing broad-based campaigns to defeat anti-LGBT referenda and advance pro-LGBT legislation, and building the organizational capacity of our movement. Our Policy Institute, the movement's premier think tank, provides research and policy analysis to support the struggle for complete equality and to counter right-wing lies. As part of a broader social justice movement, we work to create a nation that respects the diversity of human expression and identity and creates opportunity for all. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., we also have offices in New York City, Los Angeles, Miami, Minneapolis and Cambridge.