



Gay leader responds to State of the Union address

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The head of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force applauded President Bush for not mentioning the Federal Marriage Amendment in Tuesday's State of the Union address and avoiding the "use of dangerous wedge politics" but said there is much work to be done in the new Congress to undo "the hurt" Bush has created during his presidency.

"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," Matt Foreman, the task force's executive director, said in a written statement.

"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 cosponsors of the amendment announced the demise of the so-called Federal Marriage Amendment.

"While this is positive news," Foreman continued, "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 Advocate)