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Cc:

Date: Monday, February 25, 2008 01:05 pm

Subject: It's Time to Talk to Congress



**Lobby
Day
2008:
Talking to
Congress about
Transgender
Lives**



February 22, 2008

Lobby Day: April 14-15, 2008

sponsored by

the National Center for Transgender Equality and the Transgender Law Center

Were you frustrated, angry or disappointed at Congress' decision to set aside the transgender-inclusive version of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)?

Were you excited by the passage of a transgender-inclusive Hate Crimes bill?

Do you believe elected officials need to hear directly from transgender people about the bills and issues that impact our lives?

If so, come to DC for Lobby Day on April 14 & 15!

Members of Congress have said that more education is needed in order to convince their colleagues to vote for legislation that includes gender identity and expression; let's make sure they hear from us loudly and clearly this year that only full equality under the law is acceptable to our community. Our community needs -- and deserves -- full protections against the rampant discrimination we face. Will you help us send this message?

We must make sure our elected officials understand who we are and why our community needs protections against workplace discrimination and violence. To do this, we need as many diverse members of the transgender community as we can gather, and our families and allies, to come to Washington, DC on April 14-15 to speak directly to our members of Congress.

We must tell legislators why a transgender-inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act is absolutely essential. We need to share the real story of transgender lives: our need for basic health

care and employment; the right to raise our families and have safe homes; and the chronic harassment and violence that many of us face on a daily basis. Our representatives need to know that there are transgender people living in their districts, voting and participating in the civic life of our nation. And we need to show our politicians and the other organizations in our nation's capital the strength of our commitment to stand up for transgender civil rights.

Join us on April 14-15 for what we are sure will be the largest transgender Lobby Day to date. Last year broke records, but this year we need your presence even more. This year's event will include:

- A comprehensive training session to make sure you have all of the information you need for an effective and positive visit with your member of Congress
- A rally on the Capitol steps for transgender rights
- A briefing on all of the major public policy issues impacting the transgender community right now
- A reception at the National Press Club (separate ticket)
- If this is your first time visiting your member of Congress, we'll provide assistance in making the appointment and getting you started

Here's what you can do to help:

- Plan to come to Washington, DC April 14-15
- Help organize a delegation from your city, town, or state
- Volunteer to help make appointments and assist others for whom this is their first lobbying experience; please contact us at ncte@nctequality.org to let us know if you are willing to volunteer
- Spread the word to others in our community by forwarding this information and future announcements about lobby day; let people know why you think this is an important event
- Raise funds to help people come to lobby day who would not otherwise be able to afford it; you can donate money or frequent flyer miles to the scholarship fund or assist others through a local organization
- Write about it in your blog or newsletter; send e-mails to your friends and colleagues about why it is vital for the transgender community to send this message to Congress

Participating in Lobby Day, including the training, policy briefing and rally, is free. We do need you to register in advance so that we can plan for your participation and make sure that you are able to meet with your member of Congress. Once you register, we'll send you a comprehensive packet of information about how to prepare for your visit. Click to [register](#) today!

There will be a ticket charge for the reception, to defray our costs and to help raise funds to support this and ongoing efforts to educate Congress about the need for transgender-inclusive legislation. Scholarships are available; please contact us at ncte@nctequality.org for more information. Click for [more information](#).

The National Center for Transgender Equality is a national social justice organization devoted to ending discrimination and violence against transgender people through education and advocacy on national issues of importance to transgender people. The National Center for Transgender Equality is a 501(c)3 organization. For more information, please visit www.nctequality.org.

We need your support to continue this work. Click here to [join our mailing list](#) or to [donate](#) now. Thank you!

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