

GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER HEALTH

Advocacy Organizations	
What are some Local organizations that do advocacy work?	SWAGLY, BAGLY, AIDS project Worcester
What are some State level organizations that do advocacy work?	Safehomes, The Bridge of Central Massachusetts, Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender Health Access Project
What are some National level organizations that do advocacy work?	Human Rights Campaign, National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, GLAD
What are some International organizations that do advocacy work?	International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, International GLBT Native Press Archive
Advocacy Issue	
Looking at the State, National, and/or International level, at the websites or information from the organizations above, what is a major area of advocacy at this time? <i>Try to choose an advocacy issue that will in some way affect the local community.</i> Advocacy specifically refers to promoting legislation, policies or specific budgetary appropriations that positively affect a health issue. This may occur through decreasing barriers to accessing health services, providing an infrastructure conducive to effective health promotion programs, or directly increasing the resources and infrastructure of the public health system.	An advocacy issue that needs immediate attention is the barrier to health care for GLBT people. Many GLBT people do not receive regular health care because of fear of discrimination, embarrassment, and/or a lack of understanding. The health care community needs to focus on ways to be GLBT-friendly, and maintain a warm, open environment for all people. A way to do this is to train employees about the special needs of GLBT patients, and explain to them the need to be culturally competent towards sexual minorities.
What specific law, policy or appropriation is being advocated for?	The policy for employees to go through training to learn that discrimination against GLBT patients is unethical and unacceptable.
Who is doing the advocating? (Which organizations?)	Advocating should be done by local GLBT groups and their allies, aimed at healthcare policy makers.
Who is being lobbied?	Healthcare policy makers and hospital policy makers.
Whom will this issue affect?	The GLBT population as a whole.
Were they or will they (in your opinion) be successful?	We think we'd be naïve if we said, yes, but hopefully, as we enter a more accepting time, the efforts will be successful. Progress is slow but it is being made.
Why or why not? What do they need to be more successful?	GLBT friendliness is probably not at the top of hospitals' "to-do" lists... most hospitals are in the red, and have a nursing shortage, and are afraid of being shut down. Homophobia is still widespread in this country as a whole.

	To be successful, this reform needs to happen in small increments. Revised intake forms, GLBT in-service meetings, and GLBT providers will slowly help the reform take place. Time must pass with more LGBT awareness and acceptance for this initiative to be successful. It is also important for individuals vote in lawmakers who support LGBT rights.
What are the consequences if they are not successful?	The consequences will be that things will stay status quo, and GLBT people will not get the health care and especially health promotion information that they need.
If they are not successful, what other strategies can be used to achieve the same goal?	Incorporate GLBT information into medical school and NP/PA school, so that providers learn the information early on.
How can physicians and/or nurses be involved in this advocacy issue?	Physicians and nurses are at the heart of this issue! If they can become involved as advocates and be accepting of all patients, this reform can take place very quickly.