

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

July 22, 2009

Out & Equal Workplace Advocates
155 Sansome Street, Suite 450
San Francisco, California 94104


Dear Advocates:

It comes as no surprise that Gays and Lesbians in Foreign Affairs Agencies (GLIFAA), the officially recognized employee affinity group which represents the concerns of gay and lesbian personnel in the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), has received recognition for its outstanding efforts. I am impressed and proud of GLIFAA's ability to energize its constituents and create visibility for issues of concern for gay and lesbian colleagues at the Department of State and USAID. Workplace diversity, fairness, and equality are important principles that GLIFAA proudly advocates. I support its nomination by Out & Equal Workplace Advocates as one of the finalists for the Employee Resource Group of the Year Award.

For the past 17 years, through both supportive times and periods of adversity, GLIFAA has worked to raise awareness of issues of inequity and advocate for the fair treatment of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender employees in the federal workplace. Recently, with recommendations from GLIFAA, I changed Department of State policy regarding benefits for same-sex partners of Foreign Service officers. This change of policy will increase morale and help us to retain our talented employees. Together, we are making progress.

I am grateful for the contributions of our lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender employees and applaud GLIFAA's ability to organize, synthesize, and relay concerns in a way that can create change. Please consider GLIFAA's impressive efforts in creating a more equitable workforce for its constituents.

Sincerely yours,


Hillary Rodham Clinton