

# BERNIE ON LGBTQ RIGHTS

***“For far too long our justice system has marginalized the gay community and I am very glad the Court has finally caught up to the American people.” — BERNIE SANDERS, 2015***

**1972** Ran for Mayor of Burlington, VT, as an outspoken ally of the LGBTQ community; proposed to abolish of all discriminatory laws pertaining to sexuality.

**1983** As Mayor of Burlington, VT, signed the first Proclamation for creating the first Gay and Lesbian Pride Day in Burlington, VT.

**1984** Implemented an ordinance that banned anti-LGBTQ housing discrimination.

**1993** Voted against “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” and spoke out against congressmembers discrimination of LGBTQ people in the military.

**1995** Called out Randy “Duke” Cunningham (R-CA) for his bigotry on the Congress floor for using the term “homos,” stating “You have insulted thousands of men and women who put their lives on the line!”

**1996** Opposed and voted against the “Defense of Marriage Act,” or DOMA, that President Bill Clinton signed.

**1999** Voted against an amendment to ban adoptions in DC by domestic partners.

**2000** Supported Vermont’s Civil Union Legislation, the first in the country.

**2001** Strongly and vocally opposed efforts in Congress to keep domestic partners from receiving health benefits.

**2004** Voted against the (UN)constitutional amendment banning gay marriage.

**2007** Voted to expand and strengthen penalties for violent crimes on the basis of sexual orientation.

**2009** Voted in favor of the Employment Discrimination Act in 2009, prohibiting workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation; voted to expand federal hate crimes for offenses motivated by gender identity or sexual orientation.

**2010** Voted to overturn “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell”.

**2013** Co-sponsored the Student Non-Discrimination Act which prohibits public school students from discrimination based on perceived sexual orientation or gender identity; co-sponsored the Uniting American Families Act to provide equal sponsorship protections to same sex partners of citizens.

**2017** Co-authored letter to Secretary of Defense Mattis, urging him not to implement the Transgender Ban.

## Bernie’s LGBTQ Platform

- ▶ Have police departments nationwide to implement policies that improve how officers interact with transgender people, especially transgender women of color who are often wrongly targeted
- ▶ Sign into law the Every Child Deserves a Family Act that prevents child-welfare agencies that receive federal aid from discriminating against any potential foster family or youth based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.
- ▶ Sign into law the Equality Act to modify the Civil Rights Act to prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in public education, employment, federal funding, credit, housing and public accommodations.

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