



SAMPLE LETTER TO THE EDITOR

More must be done to promote equality

<http://www.lohud.com/article/20090621/OPINION/906210315/1016/OPINION02>

June 21, 2009

By Michael Tino

As a local religious leader, I was glad to see the news that President Barack Obama plans to extend many benefits to same-sex partners of federal employees. It is a notable change in policy that represents one small step towards real equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. I call upon the president, the Congress and the leadership of New York state to do more.

Our federal government needs to act soon to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, repeal the Defense of Marriage Act, eliminate the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, and pass hate-crimes legislation that protects GLBT people from those who would incite violence against them. Our state government needs to enact marriage equality and pass the Gender Non-Discrimination Act in this legislative session - the people of New York have waited too long for these things.

My Unitarian Universalist faith teaches me that all people have inherent worth and dignity. I am called to stand up against exclusion and violence. I am called to stand on the side of love. I invite our elected leaders to join me.

The Rev. Dr. Michael Tino

Mount Kisco

The writer is minister at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northern Westchester.

This letter is to be used as a sample only. Not to be distributed or reproduced.