



American  
Public Health  
Association

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*Protect, Prevent, Live Well*

July 23, 2009

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
2446 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Baldwin:

On behalf of the American Public Health Association (APHA), the oldest and most diverse organization of public health professionals and advocates in the world dedicated to promoting and protecting the health of the public and our communities, I write in support of H.R. 3001, the Ending LGBT Health Disparities Act. APHA has long supported efforts to improve LGBT health and has worked in opposition to efforts to discriminate based on sexual and gender identity.

Your legislation would take a number of positive steps toward addressing the health needs of LGBT Americans. Among other things, the bill would:

- Greatly expand research on LGBT issues by requiring federal surveys to collect data on sexual and gender identity issues;
- End discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in all federal health programs;
- Outline standards for culturally appropriate health services that meet the needs of LGBT patients; and
- Create a new Office of LGBT Health within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to address the health needs of LGBT individuals

We believe your legislation will go a long way in helping to address the unique needs of the LGBT community. We thank you for your leadership on this important issue and look forward to working with you to advance this important public health legislation this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Georges C. Benjamin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Georges C. Benjamin, MD, FACP, FACEP (E)  
Executive Director