

### **DEFENDING WOMEN'S RIGHTS**

The advancement and protection of women's rights is a priority for Congressman Blumenauer. He consistently supports policies relating to women's health, economic equity, education, domestic violence, childcare, child support, sexual harassment and international human rights.

Congressman Blumenauer has worked hard in Congress to protect a woman's right to reproductive choice, prohibit sex discrimination in employment and wages, encourage comprehensive sexuality education, protect international family planning efforts, provide assistance to victims of domestic violence, and advance the status of women and girls in poor countries. In a time when women's rights are being used as a political punching bag, Blumenauer strongly supports Title X, the protection of victims of domestic violence, and continuation of funding to Planned Parenthood for comprehensive sex education and medical services.

### **FIGHTING FOR LESBIAN-GAY-BISEXUAL-TRANSEXUAL EQUALITY:**

All Americans have a fundamental right to feel safe in their communities. Congressman Blumenauer is a member of the LGBT Equality Caucus and has been a steadfast advocate for policies to combat discrimination, inequity, and injustice. After years of bipartisan support, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act was enacted into law last Congress, protecting Americans against violence based on sexual orientation, race, religion, gender, national origin, disability, or gender identity by extending the federal hate crimes statute.

He is strongly opposed to the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which prevents national recognition of same-sex marriage. He also supports President Obama and the Department of Justice in their decision to not defend this discriminatory law in court and has joined Congressman Nadler in co-sponsoring legislation that aims to repeal DOMA. Efforts to define 'traditional marriage' as a wedge issue for scoring political points are both obstructive to our democratic process and a civil injustice to those in the GLBT community.

Congressman Blumenauer believes that all children should feel comfortable in their learning

environment and be free to participate in school activities with their peers, no matter their gender, race, religion or sexual identity. He strongly supports the Student Nondiscrimination Act and the Safe Schools Improvement Act, which protect students from bullying and discrimination in school. Harassment of an individual based on their characteristics, be it race, religion, sexual identity, or any other, is deplorable and unacceptable. These two pieces of legislation are an important part of our nation's struggle to make our country more equitable, just, and fair, so that every child has the opportunity to pursue their dreams in a safe and accepting environment.

At the end of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, Blumenauer was proud to join his colleagues on both sides of the aisle in voting to end the government's "don't ask, don't tell" (DADT) policy.

Passing this legislation is a major victory for members of the LGBT community who were tireless champions for this issue, and for the thousands of brave men and women in uniform who will receive – as they should have all along – the same rights and be judged on the same merits as everyone else in the armed services.

The repeal of DADT is just the first step towards allowing open service in the military. Since the implementation of DADT in 1993, the United States has actively discriminated against the gay men and women who served in our nation's military, discharging over 14,000 individuals. It is Blumenauer's hope and expectation that the military will permit those discharged under DADT to reenlist, should they meet all other requirements.

The United States should support and honor the sacrifice all Americans make who serve in our military, no matter their race, gender, or sexual identity.

### **RESTORING PRIVACY:**

Congressman Blumenauer has opposed the Patriot Act since the original, bipartisan version of the bill was undermined by the Bush administration and significantly expanded without safeguards for the rights of ordinary Americans. This is why it has been consistently opposed by thoughtful members of Congress from both parties.

In a country that prides itself on civil rights and freedom of speech, Blumenauer believes that we must maintain a system with checks and balances to ensure that our government works for citizens in a transparent way. We can keep America safe without compromising our liberties. The legislation is overdue for a comprehensive review that balances individual privacy with national defense.

One of the many provisions in need of reform is that which leaves library patrons and their library and business records unprotected. The burden should be on the government to show reasonable suspicion or probable cause before undertaking an investigation.

After a decade, it is past time to review and refine the Patriot Act. The intelligence community already has the tools necessary to keep us safe without compromising our privacy.