

Washington, D.C. — Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) issued the following statement regarding yesterday's Supreme Court decision striking down state sodomy laws:

"This historic ruling is a landmark victory for gays and lesbians who have been unjustly targeted as criminals for far too long and also for the personal liberties of all Americans. With this decision, the nation's highest court has recognized the validity of same-sex relationships, opening the door for equality in every aspect of life for gays and lesbians. The court's decision marks an opportunity to have a constructive national conversation about protecting the rights of gays and lesbians, free from discrimination, not just from unconstitutional and antiquated statutes but in employment, housing and domestic partnerships. I applaud the Supreme Court's decision and look forward to working with advocates and lawmakers to ensure true equality for gays and lesbians in all aspects of their lives. I would hope that Congress will show it has gotten the message by acting on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act before it adjourns for the summer recess."