



**GERTRUDE STEIN  
DEMOCRATIC CLUB**

THE VOICE OF LGBT DEMOCRATS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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February 19, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
235 Canon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madame Speaker:

The Gertrude Stein Democratic Club, the largest LGBT political organization in the District of Columbia urges you to bring the *DC House Voting Rights Act, H.R. 157* introduced by Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) to a vote as quickly as possible.

The fact that the district still does not have a vote in Congress is unacceptable. Our nation's capital has one of the largest concentrations of LGBT people in the U.S. and we pay federal taxes and are fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan to bring democracy to those countries while our own voices are not heard at home. Considering the fact that important issues affecting our community are currently being discussed such as employment non-discrimination (ENDA), hate crimes, repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, immigration and health care, we need a vote in Congress to ensure that we are included in these discussions and have a seat at the table.

We thank you for your leadership in getting the *DC Voting Rights Act* to a vote and passing it in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress and we ask the same commitment from you regarding the *DC House Voting Rights Act*. The District's LGBT and, indeed all of its citizens have waited for too long to have a vote in Congress which will benefit our democracy and send a signal to the world that the U.S. gives all of its citizens the right to have their voices heard.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Richardson  
President  
Gertrude Stein Democratic Club