



**GERTRUDE STEIN  
DEMOCRATIC CLUB**

THE VOICE OF LGBT DEMOCRATS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

1929 18th Street NW, PMB 2000, Washington DC 20009 • 888.555.5555 • [info@steindemocrats.org](mailto:info@steindemocrats.org)

February 19, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid:

The Gertrude Stein Democratic Club, the largest LGBT political organization in the District of Columbia thanks you for your commitment to bringing the *DC House Voting Rights Act, S. 160* introduced by Senator Joseph Lieberman (I-CT) 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.

By quickly and urgently bringing the DC Voting Rights Act, S. 160 to a vote you are sending a signal to the world that the U.S. gives all of its citizens the right to have their voices heard. The District's LGBT and, indeed all of its citizens have waited far too long for real representation. We thank you for your leadership in supporting this major step towards making democracy real for the residents of the District of Columbia.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Richardson  
President