



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: June 21, 2011
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BiasHELP Supports Gay Marriage

As of Monday June 20th, 2011 New York State is one vote away from making gay marriage in New York a reality. The bill has been approved in the assembly and has been headed to the state senate where one vote is needed to pass. Governor Andrew Cuomo has been meeting with individual senators to ensure that the single vote needed is secured.

BiasHELP Inc. applauds Governor Cuomo's efforts to make New York the 6th state that legalizes same-sex marriage and supports LGBT equality. While BiasHELP proudly supports same-sex marriage, we work to support the needs of the LGBT community year round. BiasHELP provides LGBT focused initiatives that include workshops, staff development trainings, and technical assistance for individuals, schools, and organizations on topics such as homophobia, stereotyping, bullying/technobullying, and discrimination based on sexual orientation. Additionally, BiasHELP created the nationally recognized Mirror Images Diversity Training Education DVD Series that is used as a diversity training tool in the classrooms and by HR professionals across the US.

The Cuomo Administration and supporters of this bill have made progress towards achieving marriage equality for LGBT couples in New York. The assembly has passed a bill legalizing same-sex marriage several times in recent years, but the move had been rejected in the senate. Governor Cuomo stated "For too long, same-sex couples have been denied the freedom to marry, as well as hundreds of rights that other New Yorkers take for granted". Assemblyman Charles Lavine was quoted as saying "Only second-class states have second-class citizens". This bill focuses on providing same-sex couples the right to marry without compelling clergy to conduct marriages. The Senate is now controlled by Republicans and 31 of the 62 senators have publicly indicated support.

BiasHELP, Inc is a not-for-profit agency dedicated to preventing and addressing discrimination, harassment and violence. Utilizing a team of skilled educators, BiasHELP conducts specially tailored trainings on bullying/technobullying as well as trainings on racism, sexism, anti-semitism, homophobia and other forms of discrimination. For more information on BiasHELP's anti-bias programming and efforts, including Mirror Images, please visit www.biashelp.org, www.mirrorimagesdvd.com or call our toll free number at 877-END-BIAS (363-2427).