

# CHANGE HAS COME TO WASHINGTON

**ATTENDING NCTE'S POLICY CONFERENCE & LOBBY DAY: MARCH 14-16, 2010**

Enough delays already! We need to get the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) moving forward. It's time again for all of us to talk directly to our Representatives and Senators, and their staff members, about why this bill is so urgently needed for transgender people and our families. Simply put, we need your voice to be heard on Capitol Hill this year—we need you to come to Washington to meet with your members of Congress so that they can put a human face on these vital issues as they prepare to vote.

## **WHO SHOULD COME TO LOBBY DAYS AND THE POLICY CONFERENCE?**

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Our events are open to everyone, whether this is your first time doing something like this or if you are an experienced advocate. Transgender people and our families, friends and allies are all welcome. If your member of Congress has voted for gender identity inclusive legislation in the past, it is important to encourage them to continue that support. If your legislator has not been supportive, now is the time to change their minds.

We'll provide you with all of the tools you need, including handouts to leave with your members of Congress, training on how to visit and up to the minute information about policy issues that impact transgender people.

## **WHAT CAN I DO?**

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We hope that you will join us in Washington for this important event and will bring your families and friends. Even if you can't come, you can help by making it possible for others to attend. Here are a few suggestions:

- Organize a carpool if you are within driving distance. Good for the environment and good for your wallet, plus, it can be really fun to road trip for equality!
- Use your frequent traveler miles from an airline, train, or credit card company. Using your miles cuts down on your out of pocket expenses. You can also donate them for someone else to use or pool them together with someone else.
- Hold a fundraiser for a member of your local community to attend Lobby Day. Hold a bake sale at your support group or a raffle among your political advocates. Pooling resources can make it possible for someone to represent your local community at Lobby Days.
- If you can organize a large group to come, we can help you charter a bus. Please contact us right away if you are interested in doing this. You can e-mail [jtanis@nctequality.org](mailto:jtanis@nctequality.org) or call 202-903-0112.
- Share a room in DC. We can help you find a roommate to share one of the rooms in our host hotel; this will let you save money and help make a new friend.
- Donate money for a Lobby Day scholarship for us to help someone else attend this important event. We'll use the money to help people who would not otherwise be able to have their voices heard by members of Congress.
- Ride the train, take a bus, fly, drive or walk ... but do plan to come if you can. Your member of Congress needs to hear from you.



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## HERE'S WHAT IS HAPPENING MARCH 14-16

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We have a variety of great activities for you to join in this year. Here are all the details:

Our annual **Policy Conference and Lobby Days** will kick off on Sunday afternoon with an in-depth session for those who would like to learn more about federal policy; we'll also be conducting an ENDA phone bank to reach out to people around the country to ask them to mobilize support for ENDA. Then we'll have some fun with a meet & greet in downtown Washington. On Monday, we'll gather for more policy briefings, with an expanded team of trainers. You'll have great opportunities to network with others from your area and share best practices with people from around the country. We'll make sure that everyone—from the first time visitor to the seasoned activist—has all of the tools and information you need to make your visit to Congress a success. As always, there is no charge to participate in our Policy Conference and in Lobby Day.

Monday evening, join us for our **annual reception and award celebration**. This is a time to honor our allies in the movement and have some fun together. We have a variety of ticket prices to make this event more affordable this year.

On Tuesday, we'll all make our way to **Capitol Hill** for a variety of visits with members of Congress, a briefing, and a closing reception. We can make appointments for you with your member of Congress; just let us know if you'd prefer to do it yourself.

## WHERE TO STAY

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Our host hotel for 2010 is the very conveniently located Doubletree Washington, located at 1515 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, in Washington, DC. They are offering discounted rates of \$149/night for a single or a double room. Call 1-800-222-TREE or 1-202-232-7000 to make a reservation. To get this rate, you must mention that you are with NCTE Lobby Day 2009 and make your reservations by February 13, 2010. (an online reservation page will be up shortly).

## HOW TO REGISTER

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You can register online for our Lobby Days; it helps us a great deal if you register as soon as possible since we are already starting to send requests for meetings to members of Congress. The more lead time we have, the easier it is to be sure that you get the appointments you need. There is no cost to register for this event. Visit our webpage at [www.nctequality.org](http://www.nctequality.org) for more information and to register.

## QUESTIONS?

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Please contact us at [ncte@nctequality.org](mailto:ncte@nctequality.org) and 202.903.0112 for more information or with any questions you may have. We look forward to seeing you in March!