



Give the People Light and they will find their own way.

# The Wisconsin Light

## Equitable Ryan White CARE Act Advances to the Senate

Washington, D.C.— In late breaking news that is an update to earlier stories in *Light*, in its first test of U.S. Senate support, the new Ryan White CARE Act with hard-fought equitable formulas, was endorsed unanimously by the Senate Subcommittee on Labor and Human Resources.

Senator Nancy Kassebaum (R-KS), Chair of the Committee, crafted the new formulas which have been vigorously promoted over the past year by the Wisconsin-led Campaign For Fairness in Ryan White CARE Act Funding.

In Committee action on Wednesday, March 29, the new CARE Act was unanimously voted out of Committee without amendment and may be scheduled for a full Senate vote prior to the Easter recess of Congress.

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin Executive Director, Doug Nelson, who has led the national fight for equity, praised the Committee vote. "This is the first indication that this Congress is committed to equitable AIDS funding," Nelson said. "It is a big victory which will double Ryan White funds for Wisconsin."

Nelson hailed the new formulas which appropriately counts living AIDS cases and distributes funds on an equitable basis per living AIDS case.

"There is a lot of work yet to do before the CARE Act gets to the President's desk for signature," Nelson said. "But this win today means that our plea for equity has been heard and that our long national campaign is worthwhile."

## The Cream City Foundation Spearheads Reception for Ron Geiman

Milwaukee— Milwaukee's Cream City Foundation, along with the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, and *Wisconsin Light* will be sponsoring a recognition reception for Ron Geiman, Editor/Publisher of *In Step Magazine*. The event will take place on Sunday, April 30, 1995 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Renaissance Center, 1451 N. Prospect Avenue in Milwaukee's lower East Side.



Ron Geiman

For over 10 years, Ron has labored to bring Milwaukee, Madison and all Wisconsin the news and features that have helped to knit this LesBiGay community into one. He has, in the process, given Wisconsin one of the finest LesBiGay publications in the country.

In addition, he has been on the forefront of the continuous battle for civil rights and dignity for all Gay people.

He has given of his time and resources with unflagging zeal to support community events.

Look for more about this in upcoming issues of this paper, but for now, mark your calendars!

The event will be free and open to the public. There will be food and beer will be provided by Miller Brewery.

## Vice President and Mrs. Gore to Serve as Honorary Co-Chairs of AIDS Walk Wisconsin



Vice President and Mrs. Gore  
Honorary Co-Chairs of AIDS Walk Wisconsin

## Walk to be Held September 17 on Milwaukee's Lakefront

Milwaukee— "Tonight, it is a real joy for me to announce a wonderful surprise," said Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW), the parent agency of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP). Nelson was speaking before over 900 people who attended the ninth annual Make A Promise Dinner and Auction that was held, March 25 in Milwaukee's Pfister Hotel.

What Nelson was about to say had been close held by MAP until it could be revealed that night.

"As you may know," Nelson continued, "we seek out leaders to serve as honorary co-chairs of AIDS Walk Wisconsin, the largest and most successful fundraising event on AIDS in the state."

"Yesterday, I received the following letter that I would like to share with you," Nelson began to read.

"We share your deep commitment to this important battle against AIDS and, as you know, we have worked hard to increase federal funding for AIDS research and treatment. We are also personally dedicated to doing all that we can to support the work of agencies like MAP."

"So, it is with great enthusiasm therefore that we accept your invitation to serve as the honorary co-chairs of AIDS Walk Wisconsin."

The letter was signed by Vice President Al and Tipper Gore.

Congressman Tom Barrett (D-WI) who attended the dinner with his wife, said, "I am very pleased that the Vice President and Mrs. Gore are coming to Milwaukee. I think it's great that the event has been a success and will continue to grow."

Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist who also attended Make A Promise, voiced his enthusiasm for the news. "The Vice President and Mrs. Gore have always been dedicated to the welfare of others. We will welcome them to Milwaukee. This is a great thing for our city and the AIDS Walk."

Both Barrett and Norquist have always been participants in the Walk. Norquist, along with his wife, Susan Mudd served as co-chairs of the first AIDS Walk.

David Mixner, personal friend and advisor to President Clinton also attended the dinner.

"I think what this represents," Mixner said, "is another step, especially by Vice President and Mrs. Gore, showing their deep support and compassion for people with AIDS. They have marched in Washington with us and it's thrilling that they're going to be honorary co-chairs of the walk."

Nelson told *Light* that, "With all of the political threats to AIDS funding that we are now facing, the commitment of the Vice President and Tipper Gore to the AIDS Walk is a real boost to our spirits. "The Clinton Administration has always made AIDS a priority and the Gore's will bring that commitment home to Wisconsin. They will rally this state behind the AIDS Walk and we will see a turnout of at least 15,000 people. It will be a day in the history of AIDS in this state that no one will want to miss."

AIDS Walk Wisconsin will take place on September 17, 1995. Registration forms are now available and can be obtained by calling 1-800-348-WALK.

## David Mixner Leads Nationwide Gay Fight Against Anti-Gay Montana Law

Helena, MT— In a quick about-face, the Montana Senate, meeting in emergency session at 4:00 p.m. Thursday afternoon, March 23, dumped a provision from the Criminal Sex Offender Bill requiring people convicted of homosexual acts and those with HIV and AIDS to register with police, and one of its supporters apologized.

It had all begun on Tuesday, March 21, when the Republican-dominated Senate had passed a bill on a 41-8 vote that included the requirement that homosexuality was one of the crimes along with rape and child molestation for which a convicted person must register with local law enforcement under a lifetime mandate.

"Any form of sexual contact between members of the same sex in Montana, including kissing, is a felony subject to fines of up to \$50,000 and ten years in prison. As in other states with such laws, the law is rarely, if ever, enforced. Had the registration law passed, enforcement was to be "rigorous," one legislator said.

The Montana Republican-dominated House had earlier passed the bill by a 32-18 vote.

Rep. Al Bishop (R-Billings) speaking in support of registering Gays said that he considered homosexual acts as worse than some other crimes. "This type of action is even worse than a violent sexual act," he said.

Montana Republican Governor Marc Racicot had not yet indicated whether or not he would sign the bill.

Both the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) issued nationwide calls to action. At the same time, the Montana Gay activist group, Pridel, held a rally at the Capitol.

Similar rallies were held in the other major cities throughout the state where, the Associated Press reported, speakers likened the Republicans to Nazis and the bill to measures

taken to send Gay people to the concentration camps.

However, by all accounts it was David Mixner who turned the tide. Mixner is a close personal friend of President Bill Clinton and an advisor to the President. Mixner was in Milwaukee on Saturday, March 25, to attend the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin's Make A Promise Dinner and honor the late philanthropist, Duane Rath.

According to Mixner, as soon as he heard about what had happened in Montana he moved quickly to rally powerful forces to make the Legislature back down.

By noon, Wednesday, through phone calls and faxes, Mixner had 6,000 telegrams and



David Mixner

calls flooding the governor's office. There were plenty more on the way, he said.

In addition, Mixner was on the phone con-  
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**Remember!**  
**It's Your Right**  
**Vote!**  
**On April 4**