



**San Francisco, Calif. (June 25, 2008)** – In honor of the historic Congressional Hearings occurring tomorrow in Washington D.C. on "Discrimination Against Transgender Americans in the Workplace " the Golden Gate Business Association ("GGBA") and the San Francisco LGBT Community Center today announced their full endorsement of the Gender Inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act (the Baldwin Amendment to ENDA).

"The San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center is proud to endorse a fully inclusive ENDA, and sincerely hopes these Congressional Hearings pave the way to the passing of this important legislation", said Rebecca Rolfe, Executive Director of the Center.

Currently California is one of the few States in the country to provide laws protecting LGBT individuals from economic discrimination. Passing of the ENDA legislation would ensure federal protection nationwide regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

"Transgender individuals have suffered discrimination far too long in our society", said GGBA Executive Director Katherine Dean. "It's time for universal protection under the law". The GGBA is the oldest LGBT Chamber of Commerce in the country and represents over 425 business and 14,000 employees.

Kicking off Pride weekend in San Francisco, the GGBA, the LGBT Center, and United ENDA CA of will be hosting a special reception for Donna Rose, the former Human Rights Campaign (HRC) director who resigned last year over ENDA. Ms. Rose will be the keynote speaker for this year's TransMarch, the first of three parades in San Francisco celebrating the LGBT community.

The Fifth annual Trans March has taken on a civil rights theme this year and will be "Marching for a Gender Inclusive ENDA and Removal of Gender Identity Disorder as a Mental Illness". This grass-roots event will take place on Friday June 27 th 2008, in Dolores Park, with festivities starting at 3pm. Donna Rose is scheduled to speak at 6:30pm and the march will begin at 7pm.

#### About the San Francisco LGBT Community Center

The San Francisco LGBT Center provides San Francisco with a vast array of programs and services for LGBT people, their friends and families. In addition to specialized community programs, the Center has also created the first Transgender Economic Empowerment program in the nation, providing workshops, career coaching and mentorship.

#### About the Golden Gate Business Association

The GGBA has served the community for over thirty-four years as a dynamic voice for the Bay Area's LGBT businesses. Specifically, it has built an organization of diverse LGBT owned and gay-friendly businesses providing significant value for the economy and a strong voice to city officials.

#### About United ENDA CA

United ENDA CA is a coalition of groups working towards ensuring passage of a fully inclusive federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act. This coalition includes the Transgender Law Center, Pride at Work, And Castro for All, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the San Francisco LGBT Community Center and the Transgender Economic Empowerment Initiative.

For more information on United ENDA CA please visit [www.unitedendaca.org](http://www.unitedendaca.org)

#### **Press Contact:**

Katherine@ggba.com  
415-865-5545