

PRESS RELEASE

GREATER BOSTON PARENTS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND
GAYS (GREATER BOSTON PFLAG)

**Praises Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick and his wife, Diane,
For Heartwarming Embrace of Their Lesbian Daughter**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 12, 2008

Governor & Mrs. Patrick "Embody the Perfect Combination of Leadership & Love," Group Says

Boston, MA –Greater Boston Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (Greater Boston PFLAG) today applauded a groundbreaking interview, in *Bay Windows* newspaper, in which Katherine Patrick, daughter of Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, talks openly for the first time about being the lesbian daughter of one of America's strongest supporters of full equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people.

In an interview with *Windows* reporter Laura Kiritsy, Governor and Mrs. Patrick discuss their shared pride for their daughter and recount Katherine's coming out experience at the Governor's Mansion.

"The first thing my dad did was, [he] wrapped me in a bear hug and said, 'Well, we love you no matter what,'" and the family shared a group hug. "And I've been closer to my parents since coming out than any other time, I think," Katherine says.

"Across Massachusetts the families and friends in PFLAG stand in solid support with the Patrick family. They are wonderful models for families who are learning that a cherished child is homosexual," says Pamela Garramone, Executive Director of Greater Boston PFLAG. National PFLAG's President John R. Cepek, who is the father of a gay son said, "All of us at PFLAG congratulate Governor and Mrs. Patrick as they embrace their daughter and celebrate their family's love. The Patricks embody the perfect combination of leadership and love and are role models not only for parents in Massachusetts, but for families across the country."

Long before he knew he had a lesbian daughter, Governor Patrick was a leader on LGBT issues. He has set a policy and parental example that every father, and every elected leader, should aspire to follow. Massachusetts is one of only two states to officially recognize full marriage equality for same-sex couples. In 2007, the state legislature defeated a measure, following the historic Massachusetts Supreme Court ruling legalizing marriage, to amend the state's constitution to ban such unions. The effort to defeat the measure was led by a broad coalition of political leaders, including Governor Patrick.

“[O]f course, he didn’t know I was gay then,” Katherine Patrick says in her interview this morning. “So, for someone so publicly to fight for something that doesn’t even affect him was just like, ‘That’s my dad,’ you know? That’s all I could think. I was very, very proud to be part of this family, and this state in general.”

This Saturday, Governor Patrick will join his daughter to march in the Boston Pride Parade. “Greater Boston PFLAG extends a heartfelt invitation to the Governor, his wife and Katherine to join us in this Saturday’s Pride March,” said Stanley Griffith, President of Greater Boston PFLAG and father of a lesbian daughter. “We are proud to have them as part of the growing chorus of families who believe in loving and supporting all of our children equally – proud of who they are.”

Greater Boston PFLAG is committed to creating an environment of understanding so that all people can live with dignity and respect through:

Support: to cope with an adverse society, **Education:** to enlighten the public, **Advocacy:** to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.

Greater Boston PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

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Full Story in Bay Windows:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/breaking_news/2008/06/governors_daugh.html

Thank you!

Sincerely,

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