



TASK FORCE GATHERING ADDRESSES NEEDS OF AGING GLBT POPULATION

WASHINGTON DC—Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) leaders converged on Washington, D.C. on June 3 for the inaugural National LGBT Aging Roundtable. The historic meeting, convened by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, marks the first time advocates from across the United States have gathered to discuss aging issues and their impact on the nation's aging lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender population.

"Our country is facing an impending and tremendous challenge as baby boomers start aging into their senior years," said Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "If you are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, the challenge is compounded because of widespread homophobia, transphobia, racial injustice and economic inequity.

At the Task Force, we see this crisis approaching and we are responding." "There are three million lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender elders in America today. By 2030, that number will nearly double," added Amber Hollibaugh, a senior strategist for the Task Force and head of its National LGBT Aging Initiative, a project made possible with the generous support of the Allan Morrow Foundation. "With a generation of baby boomers nearing retirement age and ongoing debate over Social Security reform and Medicare, among other issues, the need for a strong national network is more urgent than ever."

The National LGBT Aging Roundtable brought together 30 leaders working on LGBT aging issues, including representatives from the American Society on Aging, the Mautner Project and Gay Men of African Descent. Priorities centered on visibility; national policy that addresses the specific needs of LGBT elders; recognizing and responding to the diversity within the LGBT community; and the broad issues arising from the ageism that is endemic in the United States. Other concerns included the need for LGBT-related cultural competency training for mainstream senior service providers; strengthening legal recognition of LGBT relationships; and the need for meaningful LGBT participation in planning, policymaking, health care and leadership in elder services. —*Staff*