

Letter from Harvey Milk to President Jimmy Carter about Briggs Initiative, June 28, 1978

City and County of San Francisco

Board of Supervisors
City Hall, San Francisco 94102

Supervisor Harvey Milk

June, 28, 1978

President Jimmy Carter
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Carter:

There has been considerable press coverage of the speech I delivered at San Francisco's large Gay Freedom Day Celebration this past weekend.

In it, I called upon you to take a leadership role in defending the rights of gay people. As the President of a nation which includes 15-20 million lesbians and gay men, your leadership is vital and necessary.

I have enclosed a copy of my remarks for you to read. Especially note the section beginning on page six.

On the November, 1978, California ballot will be an initiative, called the Briggs Initiative, which would prohibit gay persons from teaching and would have other serious infringements on individual rights. Though it is a state ballot issue, it is also of great national importance and we hope you will strongly oppose it.

I would very much appreciate a response to our call for your support and I would be honored to work with you to protect the human rights of all Americans.

Warmly,

Harvey Milk