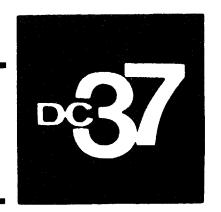
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## LEGISLATIVE MEMO:

## SUPPO



Vincent J. Montalbano, Legislative Representative Political Action and Legislation (212) 815-1550

District Council 37 is deeply committed to the passage of the gay rights bill.

Intolerance and fear of homosexuality has generated many misunderstandings about this legislation. These fears have served to cloud and distort the real issue at hand, namely, fair and equal treatment for all New Yorkers. The issue here is justice! This bill does not promote a particular kind of sexual practice -- homosexuality  $\underline{\text{or}}$  heterosexuality. Passage of the gay rights bill will send a message that the City Council refuses to sit idly by while members of our City are denied basic civil rights.

The City Human Rights Commission has documented evidence of discrimination against gays in employment and housing. Yet, for over ten years, this bill has been bottled up in Committee, repeatedly denied access to a fair hearing before the full Council. It is time to put an end to this flagrant abuse of the democratic process. We challenge the members of the General Welfare Committee to release this bill and let the will of the members prevail.

This great and diverse City cannot continue to close its eyes to this and shameful violation of basic human rights. Now is the time for action.

District Council 37 emphatically urges your support for this legislation.

VJM: is

2/14/86 Victor Gotbaum, Executive Director Norman M. Adler, Director, Political Action and Legislation District Council 37, American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO 125 Barclay Street, New York, N.Y. 10007 (212) 815-1000