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New England's Largest GLBT Newspaper



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Letter to the editor: Silence for Obama was golden

Tuesday Jun 29, 2010

Dear Bay Windows Editor,

With regards to Lisa Keen's [assessment](#) of White House LGBT Pride event, we think Keen misrepresented the tone in the room by mistaking respectful restraint while President Obama was greeting individuals for "awkward quiet." Later, when President Obama asked us to really listen, the room went silent while he spoke of his special concern for young people. Our silence showed, we think, respect for the seriousness of this important work.



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While it was our first event, Diego Sanchez, former Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition (MTPC) co-chair and current Legislative staffer to Rep. Frank, who attended the last two White House LGBT receptions, found Lisa Keen's depiction "jaded and inaccurate." We agree.

Our silence showed respect for the seriousness of this important work.

We were excited and proud to be invited to this event as transgender activists, pleased with President Obama's comments, and equally excited about the changes that have

been set in motion by the administration. These changes include appointing openly identified candidates to the Department of Labor, protecting Federal employees on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, signing the Federal Hate Crimes Bill, revising policies for changing gender markers on passports, and moving forward with hospital visitation rights.

There's been more than enough focus on the shortcomings of the President and this administration. Let's not lose sight of the strides that are being made.

Sincerely,

Gunner Scott
Executive Director, Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition
and
Nancy Nangeroni

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by Dana Rudolph

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Chair, MTPC

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