

Legislative Branch

Federal Government

- 2005 *House of Representatives*
Worked with the staff of the Committee on Education and the Workforce to develop a draft of the "Human Rights for Institutionalized Minors Act of 2005." Under a different title, the bill passed the House of Representatives in 2008.
- 2004 *House of Representatives*
Presented an Outstanding Unmarried American Award to Congresswoman Diane Watson (D-Los Angeles) on behalf of Unmarried America (formerly known as the American Association for Single People). The award recognized her efforts to promote equal rights for unmarried Americans.
- 2003 *House of Representatives and Senate*
Conducted a Congressional Briefing in a conference room of the Rayburn House Office Building during Unmarried and Single Americans Week. The briefing was for legislators and their staff members about the need for federal laws to prohibit marital status discrimination in employment, housing, taxation, and various business transactions. Congressman Rahm Emanuel (now Chief of Staff to President Barack Obama) was one of the people attending the briefing.
- 2003 *House of Representatives and Senate*
Presented Political Leadership Awards to Senator Gordon Smith (R-Oregon) and Congressman Jim McDermott (D-Washington) in Washington, D.C. for their efforts to end federal taxation of health benefits to domestic partners of employees. The awards were conferred by Unmarried America.
- 2002 *House of Representatives*
Presented a Political Leadership Award to Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes in Washington D.C. on behalf of the American Association for Single People. The award recognized her efforts to implement a domestic partnership law in the District of Columbia and to overcome congressional objections to the law.
- 2001 *House of Representatives, Senate, White House, National Committees*
Working with a small group of volunteers in May 2001, the American Association for Single People became the first singles' group in the nation to personally distribute literature to staff members in each of the 535 offices of members of Congress. During this trip, I met with staff members of five Representatives and seven Senators to discuss policy issues affecting single people. I also met with David From, a speech writer for the President, as well as staff members with the Democratic National Committee and the Republican National Committee.

State Governments

- 2005 *Utah, State Legislature*
Held a press conference in the rotunda of the State Capitol about abuses occurring at a local "boarding school." Submitted a report to legislators, attorney general, and the governor asking for action to be taken against the school and for passage of stricter laws against such abuse.

- 2000 *Vermont, House Judiciary Committee*
Testified before the House Judiciary Committee at the invitation of its chairperson on the viability of enacting a comprehensive domestic partnership law in response to a Supreme Court ruling. A civil union law was enacted.
- 1999 *Michigan, House Constitutional Law and Ethics Committee*
Testified before this Committee, at the request of Rep. Elizabeth Brater, to oppose HB 4258, a bill to repeal civil rights protections for unmarried couples. My testimony and supporting materials provided sufficient doubt about the soundness of the bill that the committee chair did not bring it up for a vote.
- 1999 *California, Senate Industrial Relations Committee*
Testified before this Committee, at the request of Senator Tom Hayden, in support of his bill to expand those eligible for family and medical leave to include domestic partners.
- 1999 *California, Senate Appropriations Committee*
Testified before this Committee, at the request of Assemblyman Wally Knox, in support of his bill to allow local governments that participate in the Public Employees Retirement System to give health benefits to the domestic partners of local employees.
- 1997 *California, Assembly Judiciary Committee*
Testified before this Committee, at the request of Assemblyman Kevin Murray, in support of his bill to create a domestic partnership registry with the office of the Secretary of State.
- 1997 *California, Assembly Judiciary Committee*
Testified before this Committee, at the request of Assemblywoman Carole Migden, in support of her bill to mandate that insurers offer domestic partner health coverage if they offer spousal health coverage.
- 1997 *Hawaii, Senate Judiciary Committee*
Responded to request of Co-chairpersons of this Committee, for information of expected cost increases if health benefits were extended to same-sex domestic partners of government and private-sector employees.
- 1996 *Hawaii, Senate Judiciary Committee*
Testified before this Committee, at the request of committee chairperson Rey Graulty, to explain various options to the committee regarding a comprehensive domestic partnership act. Such a bill later was approved by the full Senate.
- 1996 *California, Assembly Judiciary Committee*
Testified before this Committee, at the request of Assemblywoman Marguerite Archie Hudson, in opposition to ACA 28, a "Family Bill of Rights" that would have amended the California Constitution to prohibit state and local legislators from defining "family" in a manner that went beyond the traditional relationships based on blood, marriage, or adoption.
- 1988 *California, Senate Health and Human Services Committee*
Testified about economic conditions facing diverse families in California.

Local Governments

- 1999 *Illinois, Cook County Board of Supervisors*
Testified before the Board, at the request of Supervisor William Moran in support of his proposal to expand the proposed domestic partner benefits plan to include opposite-sex couples as well as same-sex couples.
- 1998 *California, Oakland City Council*
Spearheaded a six-month campaign which culminated in the City Council expanding its health benefits plan for same-sex domestic partners of city employees to also include opposite-sex partners of city employees.
- 1997 *Pennsylvania, Philadelphia City Council*
Conducted an informational briefing for the City Council on the issue of domestic partnership rights and benefits, answering questions from council members about options and alternatives in Philadelphia.
- 1991 *California, Long Beach City Council*
Testified in support of a proposal to create a domestic partnership registry and to grant benefits to domestic partners of city employees.
- 1989 *California, West Hollywood City Council*
Testified before the City Council on ways in which the city's domestic partnership ordinance could be improved.
- 1988 *California, Los Angeles City Council*
Assisted in drafting a measure, adopted by the City Council, that the city would offer to include in union contracts a clause providing sick leave and bereavement leave to the domestic partners of city employees belonging to those unions.
- 1975 *California, Los Angeles City Council*
Testified before council on "City Should Support Bill to Reform Sexual Law"
- 1975 *California, Los Angeles City Council, Intergovernmental Committee*
Testified before the council on "City Should Support State Nondiscrimination Bill"
- 1975 *California, Los Angeles Police Commission*
Testified before the commission on "Gays Are Qualified to Be Police Officers and Prosecutors"