



STATEMENT BY SUE AuCOIN FOR CONGRESSMAN LES AuCOIN  
Campaign for a Hate Free Oregon Kickoff Rally  
Salem, Oregon July 18, 1992

We are here today as a force of unity and strength, as parents, friends and partners committed to defeating this ugly, hate-filled ballot measure.

Oregonians are being asked to degrade a segment of our population, to make them second-class citizens because of their sexual orientation.

No Oregonian--no American--who cherishes the rights and freedoms on which this country was founded can support this ballot measure.

No person of faith who believes in God's love of all people can support this ballot measure.

No one who believes in decency and respect for their fellow human beings can support this ballot measure.

The people behind this vicious attack are forcing us to spend our time and resources to fight it. But fight it we will!

I challenge all public officials and community leaders to step forward and denounce the OCA's handiwork. Because if we lose this fight, who knows which group the OCA will target next?

Will it be women, and their equal rights under the law? Will it be religious minorities, and their right to worship as they choose? Will it be ethnic minorities because they have different customs or speak a different language?

This is the message we must take to the people of Oregon. And when we're done I am confident this ballot measure will be seen for what it is: a narrow minded headline grabbing ploy by a fringe group who would rather build barriers between us than build bridges to unite us.

I call on all Oregonians, from Brookings to Enterprise, from Burns to Astoria, to defeat this ballot measure and join us in working for a hate free Oregon.

Thank you very much.

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