



## LGBT Rights Advance Across Country

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Governor Ted Kulongoski, a Democrat, signed a law on May 9 establishing domestic partnerships in Oregon, a state that bans gay marriage in its Constitution. It passed the state Senate 21-9 last week. Kulongoski also signed the state's sexual orientation and gender identity nondiscrimination law. The partners measure provides some but not all of the rights that Oregon gives to married couples.

**The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force noted this week that now for the first time ever, more than half the population of the United States is covered by laws banning discrimination based on sexual orientation and more than 40 percent based on gender identity. "We still have a very long way to go," said Matt Foreman, the group's executive director, "but the tide is clearly shifting."**

Other states passing LGBT rights laws this year were Iowa and Colorado. Vermont added gender identity to its human rights law.