



## Foreman to Quit Task Force

by Steve Weinstein  
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**Matt Foreman, the head of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force**, will step down after five years of leading the organization. Foreman, who cut his teeth in the heady post-Stonewall days of gay activism and went on to lead several organizations, is considered one of his generation's most prominent gay activists. He is taking a job as the head of a gay non-profit foundation, the Haas Fund, which provides grants to LGBT organizations.

Foreman often bucked other prominent gay groups by being outspoken in his passion for gay rights. He helped build the Task Force into a formidable organization with roots in nearly every state and outreach offices throughout the country. The Task Force is based in Manhattan. During his five years, the staff grew to 54 full-time positions and the budget more than doubled.

The Task Force emphasizes grassroots activism and works with statewide organizations to build coalitions and fight local battles. "I will always love the Task Force, our work, our board, and our staff," Foreman said in a statement.

Aan Acosta, Task Force board co-chair, said a national search would begin immediately to find Foreman's successor. Foreman will work with senior staff in the interim to ensure a smooth transition.

Foreman was never afraid to buck the tide, most recently when he broke with the Human Rights Campaign over whether to include trans rights in a bill before Congress to fight anti-gay discrimination. Foreman also roundly criticized Minneapolis when GOP Sen. Larry Craig was caught soliciting for sex in an airport men's room.

Foreman cut his teeth serving as head of the New York City Anti-Violence Project and the Empire State Pride Agenda, New York's largest gay-rights group. He went from ESPA to the Task Force.

"Matt Foreman's leadership solidified the Task Force as a home for the entire LGBT community," said Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality. Keisling was referring to the Task Force's building of a coalition of 350 organizations to fight to include trans rights in the ENDA bill. The controversy caused a rift, with out-gay Mass. Rep. Barney Frank and HRC on one side, and out-gay Wis. Rep. Tammy Faye Baldwin and the Task Force on the other. As it turned out, even the non-trans bill did not pass Congress.