



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Velmanette Montgomery

Senate Majority Extends Rights to LGBT Couples

VELMANETTE MONTGOMERY June 30, 2010

Montgomery Legislation Grants Bereavement Leave To Employees In Same Sex Relationships

(Albany, NY): The NYS Senate gave final approval this week to legislation (S.6177-A) sponsored by **State Senator Velmanette Montgomery** (D-Brooklyn), that allows individuals involved in same-sex relationships to be granted funeral or bereavement leave from their place of employment.

The bill extends this privilege, which is currently afforded to employees who are married, by adding a section to the civil rights law that prohibits employers from discriminating in the granting of funeral or bereavement leave to its employees who are in a committed same-sex relationship.

“This bill recognizes the fact that love, loyalty and dedication are the cornerstone of any committed relationship regardless of a person's sexual orientation. It merely provides that bereavement leave be granted to individuals involved in same-sex relationships on the same basis as those granted to employees who are married,” said Senator Montgomery, who is also a sponsor of the marriage equality bill authored by Senator Thomas Duane (D-Manhattan).

Having passed both the Senate and Assembly, the bill will now be sent to the Governor for consideration and enactment into law.

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