

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2538**  
**Permanent Global LGBT Rights Protections**  
*Offered by Ranking Member Howard L. Berman*

**SUMMARY:**

Secretary Clinton demonstrated great vision when she declared that ‘human rights are gay rights and gay rights are human rights.’ In the wake of anti-gay violence in Honduras and Uganda, now is the time to match words with action and follow up on the promise to defend international gay rights. This amendment would put into permanent law a number of critical current Administration policies to advance the protection of LGBT rights around the world.

**THIS AMENDMENT WOULD:**

- Require the State Department to have U.S. embassies encourage countries to repeal or reform laws that criminalize homosexuality or consensual homosexual conduct or that otherwise restrict fundamental human rights.
- Require the State Department to improve human rights reporting on LGBT issues.
- Require the State Department to include LGBT issues in human rights training courses for Foreign Service Officers.

**WHY THIS AMENDMENT IS NECESSARY:**

- This amendment is necessary to ensure that the State Department will advocate for the human and political rights of LGBT activists around the world – regardless of who controls the White House.
- Currently the State Department is not mandated by law to work to protect the rights of sexual minority groups.
- The Foreign Service Institute does not currently provide dedicated training to Foreign Service Officers to identify and report acts of violence or discrimination that affects the fundamental freedoms of sexual minorities.
- The State Department is not currently required by law to collect information on human rights violations perpetrated against sexual minorities in its annual human rights report.

**ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING THIS AMENDMENT:**

Council on Global Equality