

ALERT *ALERT***ALERT***ALERT**

SUPPORT THE RIGHT OF TRANSGENDER PRISONERS AT THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL FACILITY AT VACAVILLE TO ATTEND THEIR MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP

On behalf of the transgender community at the California Medical Facility (Prison) at Vacaville, we are asking for your support.

On June 14th, 1996 the Transgender "Rainbow" Support Group began. The intent is to serve transsexuals m-f or f-m, drag kings, drag queens, transvestites, and cross dressers, and to be an educative, supportive, psychotherapy tool. However on July 15th, 1996, the Chief Medical Officer at CMF-Vacaville, Dr. Joseph Bick, decided that no transgender prisoner from the HIV Unit (Unit 4) could attend the group, even though 95% of the transgender community resides on that unit. This is extremely unfair and we urge you to advocate on their behalf. This support group is the only service specifically designed to meet the needs of this unique community.

WHAT YOU CAN DO!

Write, fax or call James Gomez, the Director of the Department of Corrections. Demand that Dr. Bick's decision be reversed to allow the transgender identified prisoners from the HIV Unit to attend the Rainbow Mental Health Support Group.

Write: Director James Gomez/California Department of Corrections
P.O. Box 942883 **Call:**(916) 445-7688
Sacramento, Ca. 94283-0001 **Fax:**(916) 327-1988

Write, fax or call Dr. Bick, Chief Medical Officer. Let him know how you feel about his decision to deny transgender prisoners from the HIV Unit access to the only support group in the prison for the transgender population.

Write: Joseph A. Bick, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
California Medical Facility-Unit IV **Call:** (707) 453-7008
P.O. Box, 2000 **Fax:** (707) 453-7009
Vacaville, CA 95696-2000

Send copies of your letters to the local media and your elected representatives.

For more information call: HIV/AIDS in Prison Project at (510) 834-5656, ext. 3150.