NATIONAL LGBTQ TASK FORCE

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To Whom It May Concern:

We are delighted to endorse Pam Walton's latest documentary, *The Lodge,* about LGBTQ retirement. Since many of us are estranged from family members, unlikely to have children, and more likely to be living alone, the prospect of retirement looms larger for us than for many heterosexual seniors. Additionally, LGBTQ seniors often face discrimination in elder care facilities and have to retreat to the closet at a time when they may most need support and community.

Walton's documentary showcases the Fountaingrove Lodge in Santa Rosa, CA - one of the only LGBTQ retirement communities in the U. S. that seeks to remedy this situation and could well be a model for more just like it. I have personally spent time at the Fountaingrove and was moved by its energy, sense of community, and commitment to creating a place where LGBTQ seniors can fully be themselves.

The Fountaingrove Lodge has received national attention because LGBTQ discrimination in elder care facilities is widespread. As a result, there is a critical need for accepting and welcoming retirement communities. The Lodge is five years old and doing very well — 100 residents, average age 75, oldest 96. I believe this film will inspire others to seek out and create LGBTQ welcoming living for seniors.

I encourage your support of this worthy project.

Sincerely,

Rea Carey
Executive Director

The National LGBTQ Task Force builds power, takes action and creates change to achieve freedom and justice for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people and their families. As a progressive social justice organization, the Task Force works toward a society that values and respects the diversity of human expression and identity and achieves equity for all.