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MEDIA RELEASE

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**GAY RIGHTS GROUP ANNOUNCES ITS MAYORAL ENDORSEMENT
Equality Illinois PAC throws its weight behind Rahm Emanuel**

CHICAGO - Equality Illinois PAC, a political action committee affiliate of Equality Illinois, has announced its endorsement of [Rahm Emanuel] for Mayor of the City of Chicago. Equality Illinois, a 501(c)(4) organization, is one of Midwest's largest organizations advocating full equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

"Rahm Emanuel has articulated a clear vision for the City of Chicago, in which lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people are fully included and involved in every level of governance." - said Art Johnston, Chair of Equality Illinois PAC.

According to Jeremy Gottschalk, Board President of Equality Illinois, "Rahm Emanuel has been a staunch champion of inclusion and equality for LGBT people." Gottschalk continued, "I am confident that as Mayor Mr. Emanuel will build on that record."

In the statement accompanying the endorsement, Equality Illinois PAC said: "The 2011 mayoral election is a historic race for the City of Chicago. And we are proud that in this mayoral contest all the leading candidates have expressed support for equal rights for LGBT people. These are visionary leaders whose love for our city is evidenced by their records of service. We are confident that Rahm Emanuel will be a transformative mayor for our city, and one who will help lead our society toward full equality for LGBT people."

To learn more about mayoral candidates' positions on LGBT equality issues, please visit www.eqil.org/NextMayor.html.

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Equality Illinois was founded to secure, protect and defend the civil rights of lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender Illinoisans. It is one of the Midwest's largest gay civil rights organizations.