

Editorial Schwartzkopf shows leadership when it's needed Editorial

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Schwartzkopf shows leadership when it's needed

No one will accuse House Majority Leader Pete Schwartzkopf of being timid. This week the popular Demo-crat from Rehoboth Beach gathered votes and flexed political muscle to suspend normal House rules and move two controver-sial pieces of legislation forward.

One bill, headed toward the governor's desk for signing, outlaws discrimination based on sexual orientation. The bill has been widely supported by many in the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and heterosexual communities as a matter of simple equality. How the bill plays out ultimately in legal matters involving spousal and partner benefits, inheritances and other areas remains to be seen. However, pas-sage of the bill is a victory for all people who want their government to be evenhanded when it comes to protecting people from ill- founded discriminatory practices.

Those who, as a result of this legislation, fear that homosexuality will now find its way into our school instruction should be more fearful that it won't. Whether it's heterosexual or ho-mosexual in nature, sexual activity has serious health considerations. Sexual images and prac-tices are widespread. Reinforcing safe practice of sex, through health classes at the appropriate level in our schools, will protect our society more than pretending sexual activity of all stripes isn't occurring. As in all human behav-ior, responsible and knowledgeable approaches will serve us best.

Schwartzkopf also muscled ahead legislation that would license the [Del Pointe](#) Casino and Resort in Millsboro. As primary sponsor of the legislation, Schwartzkopf obviously believes it to be good for Sussex County and Delaware.

The [Del Pointe](#) proposal – with a casino as one part of the proposed entertainment complex – is a well- thought- out project that could significantly enhance the county's tourism industry as well as make contributions to the agricul-tural community. The project would also help the state's finances and economy.

Schwartzkopf's move to get the bill out of committee and on the speaker's table for possi-ble action keeps options open at a time when every option may be needed to help the state through its unprecedented financial dilemma.