



TAMMY BALDWIN  
UNITED STATES SENATOR

March 2016

Dear Joe:

I want to let you know how much you are appreciated, both by me and our community. In the late 1960's, when your mom opened *This Is It*, being gay or lesbian was often synonymous with a feeling of isolation, discrimination, and fear of the very institutions in place to protect the public.

Since 1968, *This Is It* has been a beacon of hope, an oasis of understanding, and a safe haven for those misunderstood by the community around them. It continues to be a lifeline for young people simply trying to find their way, as well as a gathering place for your "regulars," many of whom have built long-lasting relationships and redefined the definition of "family."

Your lifetime of support, both in the early years and since your mom's passing, has been unparalleled. From offering help to Jerry and Terry in publishing the *Wisconsin Light*, to your often being the first to step forward when there was a need in the LGBT community, your support has been unwavering. I want to join a host of others in expressing my gratitude to you and your family. Because of your life and commitment to our community, lives have been changed for the better.

Thank you for making the world a more welcoming, generous, and understanding place.

Sincerely,

Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator