



Philadelphia HIV, Mental Health Activist Norman Baker Dies

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Norman Baker, a longtime HIV/AIDS activist who served as president of the Philadelphia AIDS Advocacy Coalition and volunteered with ActionAIDS and Philadelphia FIGHT, died at the Keystone Hospice House in Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania, [Philadelphia Gay News](#) reports. He was 58.

In the 1990s, Baker helped review how well the Philadelphia school districts implemented condom-availability programs, and he participated in numerous ACT UP demonstrations to increase HIV/AIDS education and funding. In addition, as a member of the Philadelphia Mental Retardation Public-Awareness Committee and the Association for Retarded Citizens of Pennsylvania, he advocated for mental health issues and for disabled people's human rights.

"Norman knew a lot about advocacy," said Jane Shull, executive director of Philadelphia FIGHT. "He respected no boundaries and would just call anyone--he'd call the governor. And that attitude got people to talk to him, and he was able to really influence people."

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