

# Break the Silence!

## **Pro-homosexual "Day of Silence" protest offers golden opportunity Schools should stop the silence and warn students about hazards of homosexual behavior**

The one day when the Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) encourages homosexual students and their allies nationwide to remain silent at school would be a good day for public schools to tell students the truth about the health hazards of homosexual behavior. Unlike every other day, it could be done so without fear of interruption, if homosexual activists keep their promise to remain silent.

Numerous schools are listed on their website among those where students intend to participate in the protest, which could disrupt classes if participating students and even some teachers refuse to speak throughout the entire day, as advertised by GLSEN, the national homosexual activist group organizing the event. (See list of participating schools at <http://www.dayofsilence.org>)

Citizens for Community Values (CCV), which believes promoting homosexual behavior is wrong and dangerous, says the rare pledge of silence by homosexual activists "provides a golden opportunity."

**"On the one day homosexual activists promise to be silent, perhaps the truth can be told - without name-calling or interruption - about the severe threat homosexual behavior poses to young people's physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health," CCV Vice President for Public Policy David Miller said.**

**"The truth is, no one who *truly* cares about young people can remain silent while homosexual activists use our public schools to promote behavior that puts students at dramatically higher risk of domestic violence, mental illness, substance abuse, life-threatening disease and premature death by as much as twenty years," Miller said.**

He cited research published by medical professionals and even homosexual activists, including a study published by Oxford University which found that "life expectancy at age 20 years for gay and bisexual men is 8 to 20 years less than for all men." (See [International Journal of Epidemiology](#), International Epidemiological Association, Oxford University, Vol. 26, 657-661, 1997.)

Miller said the "Day of Silence" event, which homosexual activists portray as intended to promote school safety, is actually designed to promote a different agenda.

"If homosexual activists really cared about student 'safety', they would support school policies that ban harassment or violence against *any* student for *any* reason, period. The fact is that homosexual activists *oppose* such policies, demanding instead policies that give students who engage in homosexual behavior specially designated protection based specifically on that behavioral choice. It's clear that the real agenda behind this protest is to pressure school officials into legitimizing and protecting homosexual activity itself," he said.

Miller said public school officials instead should take care to avoid **legal liability for a "tort of negligence"** that may occur if (1) a school's personnel, policies, or campus activities are viewed as encouraging or endorsing homosexual behavior, and (2) a student, relying on such understanding, thereafter engages in homosexual behavior and suffers physical or mental harm as a result.

Such risk of liability for the "tort of negligence" is acknowledged even by attorneys for homosexual activist groups. (Section II-b, "A Legal Sketch of the Issues of Parental Consent and Related Tort Liability in the Context of Youth Service Providers Working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Youth", David Buckel, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Sept. 14, 1995. See <http://www.youth.org/loco/PERSONProject/Handbook/appendix8-2.html>)

**For an in-depth analysis of potential legal liability for school districts which adopt policies or allow campus activities that treat homosexual behavior as a "normal" or legitimate behavioral choice, see "Legal Liability Associated with Homosexuality Education in Public Schools."**

The risk of a student suffering physical harm from engaging in homosexual behavior is high, Miller said.

"Public school officials have a legal duty not to allow children to be put at risk by any campus activity that legitimizes or encourages homosexual behavior, a practice scientifically proven to carry a high risk of severe medical consequences," Miller said. "School officials have a moral duty instead to actively *discourage* such self-destructive behavior among young people."

**Zogby: Parents oppose teaching homosexual behavior is normal**

Miller also pointed to a nationwide poll in which parents overwhelmingly said they don't want public schools to teach their children "it's O.K. to be gay."

By a greater than four-to-one margin, parents overwhelmingly oppose sex education programs which teach students that homosexual behavior is comparable to heterosexual relationships, according to a study of over 1,200 parents of K-12 students released Feb. 13, 2003 by Zogby International.

"Parents don't want their children indoctrinated or their health put at risk by 'politically correct' sex ed or diversity programs which tell kids there's nothing wrong with homosexual sex," said Miller. "To avoid harmful consequences to children and avoid legal liability, public school officials should honor parents' strong opposition to 'normalizing' homosexual behavior in the classroom."

**According to Zogby: "By a 4.4 to 1 margin, parents disapprove or strongly disapprove of teaching young people that homosexual love relationships can be as satisfying as are heterosexual relationships."**

(Page 7 at <http://whatparentsthink.com/pdfs/aozs.pdf>)

**An overwhelming 71 percent of all parents oppose such teaching, the poll found, while only 16 percent support it.**

(Question 14, page 10 at [http://whatparentsthink.com/pdfs/frfz\\_02\\_13\\_03.pdf](http://whatparentsthink.com/pdfs/frfz_02_13_03.pdf))

Thirty-one percent of those surveyed reside in the Central/Great Lake states, the largest subsection of the sample geographically. (Page 2 at [http://whatparentsthink.com/pdfs/frfz\\_02\\_13\\_03.pdf](http://whatparentsthink.com/pdfs/frfz_02_13_03.pdf))

Miller said medical and other studies "indicate that parents' strong opposition to promoting homosexual behavior in the classroom as 'normal' is well-founded."

"Individuals who choose to engage in homosexual behavior put themselves at dramatically higher risk of domestic violence, mental illness, life-threatening diseases such as AIDS, cancer, and

hepatitis, and premature death by up to 20 years," he said. "Any public school official who allows young people to be taught at school that such behavior is normal, positive, or harmless is not only negligent but reckless and should be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law."

### **Premature Death**

"(L)ife expectancy at age 20 years for gay and bisexual men is 8 to 20 years less than for all men. If the same pattern of mortality were to continue, we estimate that nearly half of gay and bisexual men currently aged 20 years will not reach their 65th birthday." (See [International Journal of Epidemiology](http://www.ijer.oxfordjournals.org/), International Epidemiological Association, Oxford University)

"Among young gay and bisexual men in Vancouver, the HIV/AIDS epidemic has reduced life expectancy by up to 20 years." (See *Canadian Medical Association Journal* at <http://www.cmaj.ca/cgi/content/full/162/1/21#SEC3>)

### **Students in particular at risk**

*The Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry* published a study of 4,000 high school students by Harvard Medical School, which found that "gay-lesbian-bisexual youth report disproportionate risk for a variety of health risk and problem behaviors...engag(ing) in twice the mean number of risk behaviors as did the overall population." (See Garofalo, Robert, *et al.* "The Association Between Health Risk Behaviors and Sexual Orientation Among a School-based Sample of Adolescents," *Pediatrics* 101, no. 5, May 1998: 895-902.)

In that study, "GLB orientation was associated with increased...use of cocaine (and other illegal) drugs. GLB youth were more likely to report using tobacco, marijuana, and cocaine before 13 years of age. Among sexual risk behaviors, sexual intercourse before 13 years of age, sexual intercourse with four or more partners...and sexual contact against one's will all were associated with GLB orientation."

### **Promiscuity**

"Since summer, I've been dating a really wonderful guy...This is his first relationship, so he has not yet been ruined by all the heartache, lies, deceit, and game-playing that are the hallmark of gay relationships. ...I know the odds of making a gay male relationship work. A study I once read suggested that *nine out of 10* gay men cheat on their lovers." (See "Brent's Fagenda" by Brent Dorian Carpenter, columnist, *Between the Lines*, Jan. 30, 2002. <http://www.pridesource.com/cgi-bin/article?article=3839978>)

Alan P. Bell and Martin S. Weinberg studied 574 white male homosexuals, 100 percent of whom had already had at least three sexual partners, 97 percent at least ten, 75 percent at least one hundred, and 28 percent at least one thousand. (See *Homosexualities: A Study of Diversity among Men and Women*, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1978, 81-93, 308-9.)

David P. McWhirter and Andrew W. Mattison (both homosexual) studied 156 male homosexual couples, most of whom once expected to have a sexually exclusive relationship, and found that only seven of these couples -- none of whom had been together five years -- claimed to have succeeded. (See *The Male Couple: How Relationships Develop*, Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 1984, 252-59.)

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For more information about this topic and other issues of concern to pro-family public policy, contact:



## **Citizens for Community Values**

11175 Reading Road, Suite 103 · Cincinnati, OH 45241

Phone: (513) 733-5775 · Fax: (513) 733-5794

URL: [www.ccv.org](http://www.ccv.org) · E-mail: [info@ccv.org](mailto:info@ccv.org)