



Citizens for Community Values

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Phil Burress, President

May 14, 2003

Mr. Alton L. Frailey
Superintendent
Cincinnati City SD
2651 Burnet Ave PO Box 5381
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Dear Mr. Alton L. Frailey:

On April 9, 2003, the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) sponsored student activities on about 2,500 school campuses across America. In Ohio, GLSEN claimed to be assisting in coordination of many events, mostly at the high school level. Their annual "Day of Silence Project" seeks to affirm homosexual, bisexual, and transgender youth by symbolically imitating the "silence" these students allegedly face every day.

Regardless of whether students or teachers at any of your schools participated in the recent events, we felt it necessary to write to you to express our concern that GLSEN's influence is growing on campuses all across the state. We believe their presence poses not only a significant risk to the health and well-being of your students, but also could very likely place your schools at a serious legal liability. Allow me to briefly explain.

Since the early 1990s, GLSEN and similar organizations have been working for greater access to public schools with the stated purpose of making them a "safer" place for young people who have become involved in homosexual behavior. GLSEN insists that self-identified homosexual students are regularly harassed, threatened and abused, creating an environment in which they cannot learn. Also promoting this idea is Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), which is also gaining a significant presence in many schools across the country.

What is becoming increasingly clear, however, is that despite claims to the contrary, the "safe school" message of these organizations is nothing more than a deceptive ploy to encourage sexual behaviors that are always unsafe, and sometimes illegal.

Exposure to and experimentation with homosexual behavior carries serious risks that school officials should be aware of in order to protect students. There is concern that by allowing access by homosexual activist organizations, and by establishing policies that have the effect of normalizing homosexual behavior, schools and/or their employees may be liable for physical, emotional, or criminal harm to the students entrusted to their care.

Most states have gone to great lengths to ensure the safety of children and to protect children from corruption by adults. Criminal laws that prohibit adults from contributing to the delinquency or corruption of minors often address areas of sexual behavior and carry harsh punishments.

In some instances, negligent failure to protect a child from known dangers when the child is in one's care can be cause for legal and/or criminal action. And when students are on school property, or under the care of school agents, the authorities at the school have a fiduciary responsibility to protect students from harm.

Although GLSEN, PFLAG and similar organizations are quick to assert that neither they nor the school clubs associated with them encourage adolescent sexual behavior, parents have found a completely different story when researching the resources and activities of these organizations.

Some of the most disturbing evidence is found in the books and brochures recommended by these groups for young people and their parents. In her conclusion to a thorough analysis of these resources, Linda Harvey of *Mission: America* reports:

“Children are often encouraged to be self-indulgent and self-centered in every aspect of life. They are told to reject the wisdom of parents and other authorities if they wish, even at early ages. And most alarming, they are given the green light to engage in just about any sexual behavior imaginable, even when it is criminal.”

Implied approval of child-adult sexual relationships is a frequent and usually positive theme in resources recommended by GLSEN and PFLAG. Beyond the fact that these liaisons often constitute criminal activity for which the adults could be prosecuted, the civil lawsuits schools could face are daunting.

One has only to look to the numerous claims recently made against the Catholic Church for its various roles in sexual abuse scandals involving priests to see the liability schools could face in similar situations. Out-of-court settlements paid for past offenses have totaled in the multiple millions of dollars thus far.

It is difficult, if not impossible, for school officials to know whether the adults who want access to the children on their campuses have criminal intentions. But if those adults state their intentions in writing up front – in books and brochures approving of child-adult sex – school officials have a responsibility to keep them at a distance.

Failure to do so when the school is aware of the potential danger will very likely result in culpability.

According to Harvey,

“School officials should be aware that many homosexual support groups for teens and their parents believe that sex between a young person and an adult is just an expected part of the growing up process. Numerous stories and episodes of adult-teen homosexual sex are found within the resources of these groups. Incidents are treated at times in a neutral fashion, or too often, in a positive light, as if such abusive relationships are natural, normal, and even an advantageous ‘coming of age’ step in the lives of ‘gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered’ youth.”

Enclosed you will find two reports prepared by *Mission: America* containing direct quotes from materials often recommended and distributed by pro-homosexual youth organizations. Please review them carefully.

Because homosexual behavior has been proven to contribute to many harmful consequences for those who engage in it, school officials should be aware that it is possible that a legal liability exists for the tort of negligence if it is proven that homosexual activist organizations were granted access to students under the school's responsibility and that students subsequently suffered physical or mental harm. Under the right circumstances, state authorities could also bring criminal proceedings. See Ohio Revised Code § 2907.04, 2919.22 and 2919.24.

It is hoped that your school officials who have been entrusted with the education and care of children will carefully consider the numerous negative physical and emotional consequences directly related to same-sex behavior. Examination should be made of the relationship schools in their district have with organizations such as GLSEN, PFLAG, or other local groups. And, an honest answer must be given to the tough question:

Have the programs and policies put in place – as a result of the encouragement or threats of these organizations, and the student alliances or clubs encouraged and/or supported by these organizations, – directly or indirectly exposed students to unreasonable risk?

If the answer to the question is yes, then it is hoped that whatever action is necessary will be taken to reverse the influence that these organizations have established in schools and on the formative minds of students.

We are aware that many schools across Ohio have already taken steps to protect students from organizations and materials that could endanger them. We believe many parents are supportive of these actions. As previously stated, our purpose in writing is to help you stay informed about these disturbing trends and to enable you to take steps to protect your students and taxpayers.

Sincerely,



Phil Burress
President

Enclosures

P.S. We previously sent you a report entitled *The Legal Liability Associated with Homosexuality Education in Public Schools*. If you would like to review it in light of the concerns we raise today, you may access it from our website at www.ccv.org. Please be sure that each of the members of your board receives a copy of this letter and its enclosures.