



Standard of Liberty Foundation

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Stephen F. Graham, President

News Release

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CONTACT: Stephen Graham, President

Homosexual activists putting students' health and rights at risk, group says. Schools have a legal responsibility to protect students from gay movements. Schools could face lawsuits.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah - A statewide faith-based values organization today announced an aggressive effort to notify Utah public schools that they have a legal right and responsibility to protect their students from the harmful influences of gay movements. The organization warns that schools face legal liability for putting children's health at risk if school officials allow the promotion of homosexual behavior on campus.

The campaign will commence with prepared comments at the Provo City School Board meeting Tuesday, November 8, at 7:00 p.m., 280 W 940 N, Provo, Utah 84604, 801.374.4800.

The Standard of Liberty Foundation (SLF) is providing school officials with materials demonstrating legal support for denying gay activists permission to organize in Utah public schools. Copies of the applicable federal and state laws are included in the report being delivered to Utah's 40 school district superintendents and school board presidents this week. SLF is also providing school officials materials showing a dramatically higher incidence of life-threatening disease, mental illness, substance abuse, and premature death – all as a direct consequence of homosexual behavior. The entire report can be viewed at www.standardofliberty.org.

SLF President Stephen Graham said recent studies documenting serious physical and mental health risks faced by individuals who engage in homosexual behavior point to potential lawsuits should students be encouraged at school-sanctioned clubs or events to engage in such high-risk behavior. Graham expressed concern that the growing influence of pro-homosexual groups in schools is putting children's physical and mental health, even their constitutional rights, at risk, and school officials are often unaware of the risks associated with these groups' agenda.

"Homosexual activist organizations such as GLSEN (Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network) claim that their influence in public schools is necessary to ensure the 'safety' of students who engage in homosexual behavior," referring to bullying and nonacceptance. Graham explained. "Medical studies indicate, however, that the greatest threat to such students comes from the health consequences of such high risk behavior."

"Further," Graham added, "the constitutional rights of other students are restricted by so-called 'anti-harassment,' 'non-discrimination' and other policies forced upon schools by the scare tactics of GLSEN and similar groups."

"We believe that schools are legally obligated to ensure that children are protected from outside influences that could lead to such endangerment," Graham contends. "When schools serve in loco parentis of a child, and then fail to observe the duty to protect that child, they will face the threat of lawsuits that taxpayers will be forced to pay to defend against."

In a related action, SLF is examining school policies in districts across the state. Explained Graham, "We don't want to wait until students suffer. Out of sincere compassion for these students, we are compelled help every school district avoid endangering the health or restricting the constitutional rights of young people."