Canceled Miss. Prom Brings Attention t...



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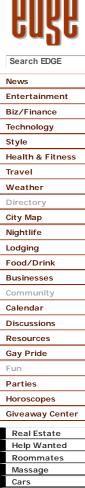
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than that. In other cases, gay and lesbian kids are getting beat up and even killed." Added Polis, "If there's a kid who's being picked on because they're gay, or beaten up, sometimes they'll go to a teacher, go to a faculty, and they won't do anything. Polis' bill, which has picked up 60 co-sponsors, "will give that kid some protection and make sure they have the right to go to school and be safe just like every other kid " Polis said

#### Critics Warn of 'Gay Indoctrination'

Even before the fracas in Fulton, critics were quick to warn that "homosexual indoctrination" at the nation's public schools will be the result if the bill becomes law, reported Fox News in a Feb. 23 article that was illustrated not with a photo of Polis, but rather one of Kevin Jennings, the Obama appointee who serves as the assistant deputy secretary for the Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools. Jennings has been smeared by social and religious conservatives for his work with the organization he founded, the safe-schools group Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), which provides materials and support for Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs) in the nation's schools. Jennings has been accused of supporting pedophilia because, conservative pundits claimed, he

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The Cato Institute's Neal McCluskey warned that because Polis' bill outlaws harassment of GLBT students, other students from religious backgrounds that view gays and lesbians as "sinners" could be criminally charged if they give voice to their opinions of gays. "That's a violation of those kids who want to express opposition to LGBT opinions or behavior," McCluskey claimed. "People have a legitimate reason to be concerned about this [bill]--not because they're 'haters,' but because you're now trying to balance different rights." Added McCluskey, "If this is passed, it's going to almost certainly in some places be interpreted far too broadly, and freespeech rights will be trampled."

Similar criticisms have been made of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, the first federal law that extends protections to GLBT Americans. Though the law, which was signed by President Obama last year, only prosecutes violent acts against minorities who have been targeted because of factors such as race or sexuality, religious and social conservatives condemned the bill as an attempt to impose prosecution for "thought crimes" on Americans.

That legislation continues to excite controversy. The <u>Oklahoma State Senate</u> recently voted for a bill to "opt out" of the federal law, and sacrifice \$5 million in federal funds that the state would have received. The bill was introduced by Steve Russell, a Republican state senator who said he was concerned that the federal law would lead to local law enforcement seeing cases taken away from them by federal investigators. Russell, too, claimed that the law would punish people for simply expressing anti-gay sentiments.

Kilian Melloy reviews media, conducts interviews, and writes commentary for EDGEBoston, where he also serves as Assistant Arts Editor.

## COMMENTS

"Canceled Miss. Prom Brings Attention to Student Protection Bill"

Anonymous, 2010-03-15 21:32:47

It's unfortunate that our country has fallen into such a fallen state where homosexuality is not considered a sin. I support the schools decision not to allow this student to exploit her sin condition. The bible clearly states that this is an abomination. Just because society now says it's a born condition doesn't make it so. We are all born sinners and without the blood of Christ we are lost. I think the best support for this girl is to pray for her sin and to hope for her to recognize it and confess to God.

Avg. Rating: \*\*\*\*\* Rate it: \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Anonymous, 2010-03-15 22:26:01

The bible also consider that the sun travels around the earth, and that you should kill and then it says not to kill, forced Joseph to married Marry under the US law marry someone knowing that it won't be consummated is consider a felony, the bible also says that is ok every so on two have more than one wife, the bible also said that we all came from adan and eve, so after that we were having sex among brothers and sisters, and so on, homosexuals are born that way and if some can chose between discrimination and ignorance base on a book that makes no sense. I am up for teaching children that in FACT in the United States equality is a matter of opinion and that the country once born under principles of equality and freedom is now a country were inequality and religious obsession are more likely to be ruling.

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Anonymous, 2010-03-15 22:27:26

The bible also consider that the sun travels around the earth, and that you should kill and then it says not to kill, forced Joseph to married Marry under the US law marry someone knowing that it won't be consummated is consider a felony, the bible also says that is ok every so on two have more than one wife, the bible also said that we all came from adan and eve, so after that we were having sex among brothers and sisters, and so on, homosexuals are born that way and if some can chose between discrimination and ignorance base on a book that makes no sense. I am up for teaching children that in FACT in the United States equality is a matter of opinion and that the country once born under principles of equality and freedom is now a country were inequality and religious obsession are more likely to be ruling.

Avg. Rating: 습습습습습 Rate it: 습습습습습



Anonymous, 2010-03-15 22:58:11

Oh please, spare us your lecture. Oh, this is a gay news app....shouldn't you be on the "living in the dark ages"app?

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Anonymous, 2010-03-15 23:59:03

Anonymous, 2010-03-16 00:34:26



There is only one verse that really deals w/ homosexuality, but many more that speak to love

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