



## The Safe Schools Coalition

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[www.safeschoolscoalition.org](http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org)

Ally Action (California)  
American Friends Service Committee  
Anti-Defamation League  
Avanti High School  
BEND-IT Queer Youth Arts and Music Festival  
Camp Ten Trees  
Capital District Gay & Lesbian Community Council (Albany, NY)  
Charles Wright Academy (Tacoma, WA)  
Comprehensive Health Education Foundation  
Diversity Productions  
East Hartford High School (Connecticut)  
Equality New Mexico  
Families United Against Hate  
Friends of Project 10  
Gay & Gender Research  
Gay Straight Alliance Network  
Gender Spectrum  
GLOBE (sponsored by PFLAG Everett-Snohomish County)  
GLSEN - Washington State  
Greater Seattle Business Association  
GroundSpark's Respect for All Project  
If You Don't They Will  
Ingersoll Gender Center  
King County Sexual Assault Resource Center  
Kitsap Unitarian Universalist Fellowship/ Kitsap Safe Schools Network  
Lake Washington Education Association  
Lambert House  
Lifelong AIDS Alliance  
Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Center  
Morningside Academy  
North Carolina Healthy Schools Initiative  
OASIS Youth Center/Pierce County AIDS Foundation  
Odyssey Youth Center  
Olympia Community School  
One-In-Teen Youth Services (Nashville, TN)  
Oregon Safe Schools and Community Coalition  
OSPI (The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Washington State)  
Passages Northwest  
Peninsula Pride Alliance  
PFLAG National – Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays  
– and 4 local chapters: Bellevue, Olympia, Seattle and Skagit Valley  
Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest  
Planned Parenthood of the Inland Northwest  
Power of Hope  
Pride Foundation  
Public Health - Seattle & King County  
Puget Sound Community School  
Rainbow Beach at the Center Project (South Carolina)  
Ravenna United Methodist Church  
Respect Sacramento (California)  
Safe Schools Coalition – Idaho Chapter  
Safe Schools of Wyoming  
St. Vrain Valley School District (Colorado)  
Scouting for All  
Seattle Counseling Service for Sexual Minorities  
Seattle Office for Civil Rights  
Seattle Public Schools  
Shorecrest High School Gay Straight Alliance  
Teaching Tolerance/Southern Poverty Law Center  
Teen Talking Circles  
Turning Institute  
University of Puget Sound  
University of Washington - Q Center  
Vista Youth Center (Kennewick, WA)  
Washington Association of School Social Workers  
Washington Education Association  
Washington Gender Alliance  
Washington State University's Gender Identity/ Expression & Sexual Orientation Resource Center  
Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation  
YouthAware Educational Theatre  
Youth Guardian Services  
Youth Suicide Prevention Program

2/17/10

### Safe Schools Coalition endorses HB 3026-S2 because:

- One could argue that discrimination in schools is already prohibited by Washington State's anti-discrimination law under the rubric of "public accommodations." But no student or parent or principal should have to research the meaning of a phrase in a law to make sense of it. Laws should be written to be clear and unambiguous to the ordinary resident of the state, not just to legislators and attorneys.
- One could argue that *some* discrimination is already covered under Washington State's anti-bullying law. But principals and families need all the tools we can provide to protect children. A principal, for instance, sought advice from Safe Schools Coalition when a group of kindergartners wouldn't allow a classmate to use the bathroom because she didn't look to them "enough like a girl." He should have tried handling it as a harassment situation and insisted that her classmates treat her respectfully. But he should also have had at his disposal a law explicitly expecting the school to make reasonable accommodations for this child if, for instance, the most humane solution turned out to be allowing her to use the nurse's single-stall bathroom.

By far our **major reason** for endorsing 3026-S2 is that:

- For the first time ever, it would give the superintendent of public instruction responsibility for monitoring and enforcing compliance ... which schools, frankly, appreciate. *Requiring* them to protect children frees them from having to *defend* their protective decisions. It gives them a concrete rationale for following best practices and allows them to make schools safe and respectful without divisive, time-consuming debate.

Please pass this bill.

Helping schools since 1988 to become safe places, where every family can belong, where every educator can teach and where every child can learn, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.