



The Safe Schools Coalition

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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.