



Ally Action
American Friends Service Committee
Anti-Defamation League
Diversity Productions
Families United Against Hate
Gay & Gender Research
Gay Straight Alliance Network
Gender Public Advocacy Coalition
GLOBE (Snohomish County GLBTQ youth group)
GLSEN - Washington State
Greater Seattle Business Association
GroundSpark (formerly Women's Educational Media)
Human Rights Campaign
If You Don't They Will
Ingersoll Gender Center
King County Sexual Assault Resource Center
Lake Washington Education Association
Lambert House
Lifelong AIDS Alliance
North Carolina Healthy Schools Initiative
OASIS Youth Center/Pierce County AIDS Foundation
Odyssey Youth Center
Olympia Community School
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 and Friends of Lesbians and Gays – and 3 local chapters: Bellevue, Olympia, and Seattle
Planned Parenthood of Western Washington
Power of Hope
Pride Foundation
Public Health - Seattle & King County
Puget Sound Community School
Rainbow Beach at the Center Project
Ravenna United Methodist Church
Respect Sacramento
Safe Schools of Wyoming
St. Vrain Valley School District (Colorado)
Scouting for All
Seattle Counseling Service
Seattle LGBT Community Center
Seattle Public Schools
Turning Institute
University of Puget Sound
University of Washington - Q Center
Verbena
Vista Youth Center
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
Youth Guardian Services
Youth Suicide Prevention Program

The Safe Schools Coalition

Crises: 1-877-SAFE-SAFE

Messages: 206-632-0662 x49

10501 Meridian Ave N, Seattle, WA 98133

www.safeschoolscoalition.org

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March 18, 2008

Ellen Kahn
Director, Family Project
Human Rights Campaign
1640 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Ellen:

On behalf of the entire Safe Schools Coalition I would like to thank you and Allison Herwitt for joining us at our general meeting on February 19, 2008. We appreciate your willingness to share with us HRC's decision making process regarding the Federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

I am writing you this letter, as previously discussed, to inform you of your colleagues' decision regarding HRC's membership. As you know, the Coalition's mission explicitly includes gender identity/gender expression, along with sexual orientation, and member organizations sign a commitment when they apply to join the Coalition to uphold its mission. After a long discussion – in which it was acknowledged that HRC *is* upholding that aspect of the Coalition's mission in its *Welcoming Schools* project – even as it did not do so during the ENDA struggle -- it was decided to suspend HRC's membership to give HRC some



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time to demonstrate its commitment to the Coalition's mission across your divisions. We would be glad to offer some specific suggestions of ways you might do that and we want to make clear the Coalition's willingness to reassess with you in six months.

In the meantime we invite and encourage you to develop a plan of action which highlights how your organization is committed to internal education regarding transgender issues, how you can become better transgender allies/advocates, and how you are going to work to heal the rift between HRC and the LGBTQ community on this matter. I encourage you to remember that any person can be targeted for gender non-conformity regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

We would like you to talk over your action plan, if you choose to create one, in the very near future. We look forward to working with you through out the rest of 2008 and we will reassess the renewal of your membership in 2009. Please feel free to contact us at anytime with questions, or concerns.

Sincerely,

Ethan M. Blustein

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