



September 26, 2007

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 394 – Veto Request

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

On behalf of the millions of father and mothers of children in California public schools, Campaign for Children and Families urges you to veto AB 394 (Levine), which is associated with SB 777 (Kuehl).

Last year, parents statewide appreciated your vetoes of the school sexual indoctrination bills, AB 606 (Levine) and SB 1437 (Kuehl). These bills are back. So is the opposition of parents who don't want administrators or teachers forced to promote sexual lifestyles under the guise of "antidiscrimination" training.

While SB 777 is about "instruction" and "activities" promoting various sexual lifestyles, AB 394 promotes these same lifestyles – "gender" (transsexuality and sex changes) and "sexual orientation" (bisexuality and homosexuality) – through publications, postings, curricula, and handouts to students, parents, and teachers. AB 394 would promote these lifestyles under the guise of "safety." Yet current safety and nondiscrimination laws are sufficient, making this bill unnecessary.

Sexual lifestyles indoctrination

While SB 777 would indoctrinate via school textbooks and activities, AB 394 would indoctrinate children and parents via publications, postings on walls, curricula on school websites, and in handouts to take home. At every point of these new, on-campus "training" mandates, various sexual lifestyles, including transsexuality, bisexuality, and homosexuality, would be positively portrayed to students as young as kindergarten:

Publications: Section 234.1(c) of the bill requires schools to "publicize antidiscrimination and harassment policies" and "the information shall be translated" into other languages.

Postings: Section 234.1(d) of the bill requires schools to "post antidiscrimination and antiharassment policies in all schools and offices, including staff lounges and pupil government offices."

Curricula: Section 234.2 of the bill requires the California Department of Education to "display information on curricula" related to discrimination and harassment based on Penal Code, Section 422.55's characteristics — specifically, transsexuality, bisexuality, and homosexuality.

Handouts: Section 234.3 of the bill mandates that the California Department of Education to develop “a model handout” promoting these sexual lifestyles to students under the guise of “antidiscrimination” training.

Ironically, the sexual lifestyle indoctrination in AB 394 that disturbs parents is so unnecessary, an important point that you made last year in your AB 606 veto message:

...the California Student Safety and Violence Prevention Act of 2000 already prohibits discrimination and harassment in California Public Schools. A task force created by the Department of Education to recommend ways to implement this Act released its report to school districts in 2001. On April 30, 2004, the Department of Education's General Counsel issued a legal advisory to all county and district superintendents explaining the laws related to discrimination. According to this document, every local educational agency is required to have a policy against discrimination and harassment that applies to all the protected categories of students and a complaint procedure that enforces that policy.

It is the responsibility and obligation of the Department of Education to ensure that school districts are complying with this important law and I strongly encourage a zero tolerance for any violation of these prohibitions against discrimination and harassment in our schools.

Drafting error threatens free speech

Also disturbing is how AB 394 fails to define “harassment.” Could a parent who says marriage is only for a man and a woman in the presence of a lesbian teacher be found guilty of “harassment?” Could a student saying that babies are either boys or girls be labeled “harassment” by a transgender teacher? Poor drafting means this bill would likely infringe upon free speech in unintended ways.

In conclusion, AB 394 is a poorly-drafted bill that is part of the sexual indoctrination agenda which parents don't want and children don't need. Existing laws in the Education and Penal codes already prevent discrimination and harassment in the schools. With test scores much too low, California schools should focus on academic standards and demand academic excellence, not promote sexual lifestyles to schoolchildren of all ages. Please veto AB 394. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Randy Thomasson
President
Campaign for Children and Families