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HB 259

Testimony of Eugene Williams
Hamilton, MT

Before the Judiciary Committee, Montana House of Representatives.
January 17, 2005

Regarding HB 259

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in opposition to the Civil Union Bill that is before this committee today. Very recently the initiative to amend their constitutions to affirm marriage as being between one man and one woman was passed by overwhelming majorities in many states, including Montana, where the voters were allowed to decide the issue. I was pleased when these election results were reported.

I have never viewed myself as being homophobic. For a long time after that word became a part of our language I knew that the label did not apply to me. Today the word has long since lost any relevance. It is routinely used by the homosexual community to insult anyone who does not agree completely with their agenda.

I believe that their true agenda is never stated honestly in a situation like the one we are involved in today. I have testified previously before this committee against proposed hate crimes legislation. Proponents invariably relate tales of mistreatment, and sometimes physical abuse of themselves or family members because of their homosexuality. According to testimony physical abuse frequently takes place in schools.

How can this be true in this era of zero tolerance? Zero tolerance that is sometimes carried to insane extremes. How can an eight year old child be suspended and humiliated for pointing a finger at another child and saying "bang, bang", or an older child for having a plastic spoon in his truck, while physical abuse of homosexual students continues unabated? Are we to believe that no parent or child suffering this abuse has had the courage to complain to school officials, or to the police? Do school administrators or law enforcement personnel routinely ignore pleas for help?

The debate over same sex marriage has divided the country. When civil unions were presented as a way to address the financial concerns of homosexual couples I was not opposed. The demands of the homosexual lobby to legalize same sex marriage, and the illegal marriages performed by activist public officials have changed my position.

Equal rights under the law is not the goal of the homosexual lobby. Gay marriage is not a civil rights issue. There is no law prohibiting homosexuals from voting or accessing public accommodations. The true goal of the homosexual lobby is to force society to accept homosexuality as being as natural as heterosexuality. They are determined to overturn centuries of traditional understanding of marriage, and the vital role it plays in societies, both past and present. They want to infringe on my right to object to their goal and the methods they use to achieve it. No one has the right to tell me what I am allowed to disagree with, and then call me names because I do disagree.

Most objectionable is the covert strategy they use to achieve their goal. They are aided in their efforts by the major media and the social engineering taking place in the public education system in this country.

When the homosexual/bisexual/transgender lobby ends its disingenuous campaign to present itself as a totally benign group of discriminated against citizens, I will applaud them. When they stop using health or sex education classes in the schools to promote their lifestyle behind the backs of parents, I will congratulate them. When they acknowledge some of the very real health hazards that accompany promiscuous homosexual activity, I will begin to respect them for their honesty.

Until then I will oppose any initiative they bring forward, because I recognize it for what it is. Another incremental step toward forcing their will on society. I ask this body to reject HB 259.

I thank you for the opportunity to make these comments

Eugene Williams Hamilton, MT