

DATE 3/16/05  
SB 199

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

My name is Tyler Stockton. I am an eighteen year old senior in high school and have been in the Boy Scouts of America since I was 10 years old.

I am here to ask you to vote no on Senate Bill 199. I am currently serving as Lodge Chief for the Apoxky Aio Lodge of the Order of the Arrow. The Order of the Arrow is the service organization inside the Boy Scouts of America. I was elected by my peers in the Order of the Arrow to the office of Lodge Chief. I represent the Order of the Arrow on the Montana Council Executive Board and I believe that it is my duty to represent them in the Montana Legislature as well.

SB 199 is extremely detrimental to the Boy Scouts and I would just like to point out a few of the problems I have with the bill.

- Section 49-2-303 would force the Boy Scouts to hire homosexuals as professional scouts. This directly violates the policies of the Boy Scouts of America.
- Section 49-2-304 would make it illegal for the Boy Scouts to place posters in public places such as schools or any other public building. Since the Boy Scouts have been labeled as an "anti-homosexual" organization. This would keep us from posting announcements, awards, etc.
- Section 49-3-205 would force the State of Montana to deny the Boy Scouts access to public lands such as the fairgrounds or state parks. The public lands are essential to our program. The National Parks are used by thousands of Scouts every year.

In June of 2000, the United States Supreme Court upheld the right of the Boy Scouts of America to set its own standards for membership and leadership. The Boy Scouts of America believe that an avowed homosexual is not a role model for the values espoused in the Scout Oath and Law. "Boy Scouting makes no effort to discover the sexual orientation of any person. Scouting's message is compromised when prospective leaders present themselves as role models inconsistent with Boy Scouting's understanding of the Scout Oath and Law"<sup>1</sup>. We are simply exercising our right as a private organization to restrict our leadership and membership.

I would also like to remind the committee that the Boy Scouts of America provides hundreds of thousands of service hours in the community each and every year. This bill would make it against the law for us to continue doing service projects on public land or on public facilities.

I urge you to vote no on Senate Bill 199. Thank You.

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(1)

June 28, 2000

**Boy Scouts of America  
Sustained  
By United States Supreme Court**

We are very pleased with the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the Dale case. This decision affirms our standing as a private association with the right to set its own standards for membership and leadership.

This decision allows us to continue our mission of providing character-building experiences for young people, which has been our chartered purpose since our founding.

For more than 20 years, the Boy Scouts of America has defended its membership standards. We went to the highest court in the land, the U.S. Supreme Court, in order to do so. The Boy Scouts of America, as a private organization, must have the right to establish its own standards of membership if it is to continue to instill the values of the Scout Oath and Law in boys. Thanks to our legal victories, our standards of membership have been sustained.

We believe an avowed homosexual is not a role model for the values espoused in the Scout Oath and Law.

Boy Scouting makes no effort to discover the sexual orientation of any person. Scouting's message is compromised when prospective leaders present themselves as role models inconsistent with Boy Scouting's understanding of the Scout Oath and Law.

Scouting's record of inclusion is impressive by any standard. However, we do ask all of our members to do their best to live the Scout Oath and Law. Today, boys from every ethnic, religious, and economic background in suburbs, farms, and cities know and respect each other as they participate in our program.

We thank the parents, volunteers and friends of Scouting who have supported us in this case and others. We respect other people's right to hold differing opinions and ask that they respect ours.

In a support brief filed by three of Scouting's largest chartered organizations, they addressed why Scouting has been so effective for 90 years: "Scouting's program for character development is effective precisely because it teaches through both precept and concrete examples of its adult leaders ... Scoutmasters exist not only to espouse the ideals of Scouting, but more importantly to live and embody them; they are the role models of the Scouting movement."

(2)

February 6, 2002

**Boy Scouts of America  
Resolution**

1. WHEREAS, the Resolutions Committee of the Boy Scouts of America (on behalf of the Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America) on June 1, 2001, assigned the Relationships Committee of the Boy Scouts of America with the responsibility for considering and making recommendations to the Executive Board with respect to various resolutions submitted by members of the National Council at the annual meeting concerning the appropriate flexibility to be employed by the Boy Scouts of America in establishing standards for leadership; and
2. WHEREAS, the Relationships Committee duly formed a Task Force on Resolutions, composed of a cross section of representatives from religious and civic chartered organizations and others represented in Scouting, to consider these resolutions and make recommendations to the Relationships Committee; and
3. WHEREAS, the Task Force has reported the results of its thoughtful and extensive deliberations to the Relationships Committee, which submitted the report to the Relationships/Marketing Group Committee, both of these committees having approved and adopted the Report of the Task Force on Resolutions as their own; and
4. WHEREAS, the national officers, having received and considered the Report, unanimously adopt the recommendations of the Report without reservation; and
5. WHEREAS, the national officers agree with the report that "duty to God is not a mere ideal for those choosing to associate with the Boy Scouts of America; it is an obligation," which has defined good character for youth of Scouting age throughout Scouting's 92-year history and that the Boy Scouts of America has made a commitment "to provide faith-based values to its constituency in a respectful manner;" and
6. WHEREAS, the national officers agree that "conduct of both Scouts and Scouters must be in compliance with the Scout Oath and Law" and that "membership is contingent upon one's willingness to accept the values and standards espoused by the Boy Scouts of America," and
7. WHEREAS the national officers further agree that homosexual conduct is inconsistent with the traditional values espoused in the Scout Oath and Law and that an avowed homosexual cannot serve as a role model for the values of the Oath and Law; and

8. WHEREAS, the national officers reaffirm that, as a national organization whose very reason for existence is to instill and reinforce values in youth, the BSA's values cannot be subject to local option choices, but must be the same in every unit; and
9. WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts of America respects the right of persons and individuals to hold values and standards different than the Boy Scouts of America, the national officers also agree that the Boy Scouts of America is entitled to expect that persons and organizations with different values and standards will nevertheless respect those of the Boy Scouts of America;
10. THEREFORE, the national officers recommend the National Executive Board affirm that the Boy Scouts of America shall continue to follow its traditional values and standards of leadership.