



To: HRRC

Agenda Item #: VII.D.

From: Annie Johnson
Staff Liaison

Action

Discussion

Date: September 24, 2013

Information

Subject: Youth Well-Being Project and Time to THRIVE Conference from the Human Rights Campaign Update

Action Requested:
None.

Information / Background:

Chair Bigbee will update the Commission about the Human Rights Campaign's Recent initiatives.

Attachment:

Email.

Annie Johnson

From: Arnold Bigbee <arnieb1@me.com>
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 4:59 PM
To: Annie Johnson
Subject: Fwd: HRC Weekly Update from Chad Griffin

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please list this for our next agenda re: bullying.
Thank you.
Arnie

Sent from Arnie Bigbee's iPad2
Cell: 612 804 4660
arnieb1@me.com
www.legalshield.com/hub/abigbee

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Chad Griffin, Human Rights Campaign" <hrc@hrc.org>
Date: September 6, 2013, 4:20:48 PM CDT
To: arnieb1@me.com
Subject: HRC Weekly Update from Chad Griffin
Reply-To: "Chad Griffin, Human Rights Campaign" <hrc@hrc.org>



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN.

CHAD'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

For Partners

Working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equal Rights

Dear Arnold,

The beginning of the new school year is supposed to be a time of excitement and anticipation. But even in 2013, too many LGBT young people from the heartland to the coasts still walk into their new classroom fearful, rather than hopeful, of what awaits them inside. It's just one of the challenges that LGBT youth face every day, and advancing equality means building a better future for those young people in each and every aspect of their lives.

No students should be subjected to bullying or isolation. The HRC Foundation's [Welcoming Schools](#) program works to stop bullying before it begins in the early grades. Our dedicated staff and consultants have worked with thousands of elementary school educators, administrators, and parents to ensure that their schools are safe and inclusive.

But we can do even more. That's why the HRC Foundation is proud to announce our [Youth Well-Being Project](#)—as well as the Project's signature event, the [Time to THRIVE](#) Conference taking place

in Las Vegas, Nevada on February 14th-16th, 2014. This first, annual gathering will bring together educators, healthcare providers, counselors, parents and community leaders from across the country to become inspired, empowered and better informed on how to bring lasting positive change to LGBT youth of all ages and in all 50 states. Time to THRIVE has already received strong support from The Child Welfare League of America, the American Counseling Association, and the National Education Association, to name a few.

Progress can't wait, because persistent inequality has a price every day. A young lesbian may not be fully honest with her doctor if she's worried about being outed to her parents. A trans teen may be [denied his shot on the homecoming court](#) because of mean-spirited or simply ignorant administrators. And, as HRC's [groundbreaking research](#) has shown, this uncertainty takes a significant toll. While straight teens are free to focus on their grades, securing a job, or getting into college, LGBT youth have the burden of added concerns—bullying, rejection, harassment, or even violence.

We have come too far as a country to continue to allow the childhood and young adulthood of LGBT people to be defined by constant petty injustice or physical harm. Progress for marriage equality or nondiscrimination laws has been remarkable, but it isn't enough. We have to turn this hopeful moment into lasting change for LGBT youth.

Have a great weekend and L'shanah tovah to our Jewish friends and family,

Chad Griffin
President
Human Rights Campaign

P.S. Exciting news from San Antonio, Texas as the 7th largest city in the country [passed an LGBT-inclusive update](#) to its citywide nondiscrimination ordinance with the support of HRC and a coalition of organizations on the ground.

And at the federal level, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder announced that the government will extend spousal veterans benefits to legally-married gay and lesbian couples as a result of this summer's landmark Supreme Court rulings. [Find out more on this](#) and other recent pro-equality changes in federal policy.

Enjoy staying fit? Know someone who does? Check out our [Athletes for Equality](#) program! When our Athletes participate in events, not only do they train their bodies to be stronger and faster but their fundraising goes toward HRC and the fight for equality.

Your Partners Team - Dane Grams & Caryn Viverito

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