

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PASSAGE OF THE STUDENT NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT (SNDA – H.R. 4530), WHICH WOULD PROVIDE LGBT STUDENTS FEDERAL PROTECTIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE DESIGNED TO PREVENT DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX, DISABILITY, OR AGE.

WHEREAS:

- A. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students -- and those students who are perceived to be LGBT or who associate with LGBT students -- are subjected to discrimination, including harassment, bullying, violence, and are deprived of equal access to educational opportunities.
- B. Nearly 9 out of 10 LGBT students (86.2%) experience harassment at school because of their sexual orientation, and 60.8% feel unsafe at school because of their sexual orientation, according to GLSEN's 2007 National School Climate Survey.
- C. The harassment clearly affects students' ability to learn. A third of LGBT students (32.7%) missed a day of school in the past month because of feeling unsafe, 5 times higher than a national sample of all students.
- D. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Students are Three Times as likely as Non-LGBT students to feel unsafe at school (22% versus 7%).
- E. LGBT students report that teachers are less likely to frequently intervene (less than one-fifth of the time) when they hear biased remarks targeted at LGBT students, as compared to when they hear sexist or racist remarks (42.3% and 57.6%).
- F. There is no specific law extending these protections to victims of anti-LGBT discrimination and, subsequently, they have fewer legal options through which to seek redress.
- G. SNDA is endorsed by many advocacy organizations including: GLSEN, American Association of University Women, American Civil Liberties Union, GLAD (Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders), Human Rights Campaign, National Center for Lesbian Rights, National Center for Transgender Equality, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund, School Social Work Association and Transgender Law Center.
- H. SNDA would provide federal protections for LGBT students similar to those designed to prevent discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Democratic Party Of Lane County fully supports and urges Congress to pass the Student Nondiscrimination Act. As efforts to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act begin, Congress should seize the opportunity to meaningfully strengthen the law's school climate provisions, by incorporating the SNDA.