



Concerned Citizen California Action Alert

A publication of Concerned Women for America of California

June 22, 2009

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“Harvey Milk Day” Passes Assembly Committee, Moves to Floor

On June 17 the Assembly Education Committee passed SB 572, the bill to establish a “day of special significance” in California public schools honoring the late Harvey Milk. There are only three other such days in our schools: California Poppy Day, Day of the Teacher and John Muir Day. If passed and approved by the governor, SB 572 would encourage schools, K-12, to engage in “suitable commemorative exercises” recognizing the accomplishments of the first openly homosexual man to be elected to public office. This would obviously entail a definition of homosexuality and classroom discussion of the issue with children as young as five without parental permission. The observance is to be integrated into the regular school program.

The committee vote was divided along party lines, as previous votes have been. While just one Republican committee member attended the contentious hearing and opposed the bill (Asm. Martin Garrick, Carlsbad), the other two, Brian Nestande (Palm Desert) and Jeff Miller (Corona), cast “no” votes for the record.

The representatives of pro-family organizations who testified against SB 572 were treated with disrespect by the bill’s author, Sen. Mark Leno, and committee member Asm. Tom Ammiano, both San Francisco Democrats who are homosexual. Ammiano told those opposing the bill their “ignorance, blaseness and bold stupidity show the need” for the bill and that their testimony was “ludicrous.”

Just who is being intolerant and hateful here? Imagine the outrage had such comments been made by conservatives, yet committee Chairwoman Julia Brownley (D-Woodland Hills) did nothing to rein in the contemptible behavior.

Who supports SB 572? The bill’s sponsor, Equality California, as well as other lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender groups, the California Teachers’ Association, California Federation of Teachers, Cities of Los Angeles, West Hollywood and San Diego, and Planned Parenthood of California.

Who opposes SB 572? Aside from several California pro-family groups, including CWA, a large percentage of the public, as evidenced by the views of the 500 respondents to a SurveyUSA poll sponsored by San Francisco television station KPIX. The poll specifically asked if Harvey Milk’s birthday should be recognized statewide as a “day of significance.” Just 19 percent were in support with a full 69 percent opposed to the premise of SB 572. Divided along ideological lines, 78 percent of those who identified as conservative and 59 percent who identified as liberal opposed “Harvey Milk Day.”

Action: *SB 572 now will move to the Assembly floor and could be voted on very soon. Please contact your assemblymember and ask him or her to oppose SB 572 when it reaches the Assembly floor. [Find your assemblymember here.](#) [Find a sample letter to help you format your communication here.](#)*

Ask Gov. Schwarzenegger to veto SB 572 as he did last year’s similar bill. If you can, please send a handwritten note to the governor. Call Gov. Schwarzenegger’s office at (916) 445-2841 or e-mail him through <http://gov.ca.gov/interact>. [Find a sample veto letter here.](#) Hurry, he is being pressured from Harvey Milk Day supporters. Make your voice heard!



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