

PRESS RELEASE



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California Governor Vetoes Bias-Free Curriculum Act

Act would have added LGBT students to existing law prohibiting discrimination in textbooks

(San Jose, CA - September 7, 2006). California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed the Bias-Free Curriculum Act, SB 1437, on Wednesday, September 6, 2006. The Bias-Free Curriculum Act was proposed by Sen. Sheila Kuehl, D-Los Angeles, and would have prohibited the instruction, use of textbooks or school-sponsored activities that negatively reflect on people based on their sexual orientation. This measure would have added LGBT students to an existing law that bars discrimination in schools based on race, sex, color, creed, handicap, national origin or ancestry.

“In order for any student to learn, they must feel safe in their learning environment,” said Aejaie Sellers, the DeFrank Center’s executive director. “Studies constantly find that LGBT youth feel unsafe at schools, and it is unfortunate that the governor chose to veto this bill which would have helped to create safer learning environments for all students.”

Originally introduced in the Senate on February 22, 2006, SB 1437 sought to add age appropriate information about the political, economic, and social contributions of LGBT individuals in California’s recent history to the existing social science curriculum. An amended bill was reintroduced in the Senate on May 1, 2006 to prohibit the usage of educational learning materials that adversely reflect on the LGBT community.

About The Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center:

Founded in 1981, the Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center addresses the needs and rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender people of all ages and backgrounds in Silicon Valley. The DeFrank Center provides a broad range of wellness, social and recreational activities, and emotional support services to approximately 400 visitors each week. The DeFrank Center is a 501(c)3, federally registered, tax-exempt organization, and receives over 21,000 contacts and requests for service a year (either in-person, via phone or on-line). For more information, visit www.defrank.org.