ENDA and Religious Exemptions

On July 8th, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force released an Op-Ed stating that they would withdraw their support from ENDA, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, a bill that would prohibit workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. The Task Force decided that the religious exemption in ENDA is too broad and in conjunction with the "Hobby Lobby" decision, and corporations would have much more leeway to discriminate against LGBT people in the workplace. The Task Force is advocating for a much more inclusive ENDA, but will not support it in its current state. Various other organizations then came out against ENDA, including the ACLU, the Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, Lambda Legal, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, and Transgender Law Center.

PFLAG National released a statement clarifying its position by reaffirming our values for continued dialogue and putting forward our simple test for ENDA or other issues:

PFLAG has a long, proud history of engaging in difficult conversations, often related to issues of faith. We understand and see every day how freedom of religion is being conflated with the freedom to discriminate and the growing crescendo that this discrimination be enshrined in law. PFLAG’s richness of diversity compels us to operate from a lens of fairness when looking at religious exemptions, and fairness dictates that any religious exemption in judicial ruling, executive action, or legislation cannot be so broad as to compromise an individual’s dignity.

Yet from decades on the front lines of LGBT equality advocacy, we also know that if we want laws written, supported, and passed, we must commit to staying engaged, no matter how difficult the conversations get. PFLAG will always use the same test, whether it be for ENDA, an Executive Order, some other piece of legislation, or a court ruling: Will people who are LGBT be treated differently than protected classes of people? If the final version or ruling does not pass that test, then we will not support it and will instead actively mobilize all PFLAGers and people everywhere committed to fairness and equality to oppose.

PFLAG National will continue to support ENDA and insist on a fair and equal religious exemption in the bill. Whether through ENDA or via an Executive Order, people who are LGBT have a desperate need for workplace protections, and should have the same workplace rights and responsibilities as anyone else. In fact, the majority of Americans already agree that people in the workplace should be judged on the merits of their work, not based on who they are; that is fair.
PFLAG Support Meetings

Redwood City, August 11 — 7:00 pm
San Jose, August 13 — 7:30 pm

Programs to be announced—please check our website for updates: www.pflagsanjose.org
Small group support is offered at all meetings. ▼

PFLAG Board Meetings via Teleconference

Our PFLAG Chapter Board meets monthly via telephone conference call. We welcome new, creative ideas for helping families, getting our message out, raising money for scholarships, and just having fun together. We’d love to have you become part of the Board, attend a tele-meeting, or send us your ideas. For more information, email Ken Klucsor: kenklucsor@yahoo.com ▼

We are on Facebook!

Do you know that our San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG Chapter is on Facebook? We post our meetings and other events there. Group members may also post news and events of interest to our PFLAG chapter members.

Check it out! www.facebook.com/groups/51943261397/
Then click on About for more information. ▼

Amazon.com — PFLAG Corporate Partner

You can shop for anything on Amazon.com while supporting National PFLAG at the same time. PFLAG will receive a minimum 5% back from your purchase. Simply click on the above link to begin your online shopping! - More information at: http://community.pflag.org/booksandmerchandise ▼

Silicon Valley Pride Festival

Sunday, August 17
10 AM—7 PM
Discovery Meadow
San Jose

If you are interested in coordinating a PFLAG booth at Silicon Valley Pride, please contact us at (408) 270-8182 ASAP! ▼

2014 PFLAG Membership

Many thanks to all who renewed your memberships this year! If you haven’t yet done so, it’s not too late. Please take a moment to renew your 2014 membership now.

Donations at the Benefactor, Angel, or Diva level, or to our Scholarship Fund, are deeply appreciated. Many employers offer matching programs that could double your contribution. If you ask your employer to make a matching gift, you will need to give them our EIN (Employer ID Number): 7702544991. See also The Gift of Giving brochure on our website.

Renew by mail or online at: www.pflagsanjose.org. On behalf of our chapter, we thank you for your commitment to the mission of PFLAG and all you do to help us achieve our goals of support, education and advocacy. ▼

San Jose Pride is now Silicon Valley Pride! August 17

San Jose Pride has a new name! The Gay Pride Celebration Committee of San Jose Inc., commonly known as San Jose Pride, officially changed its legal name to Silicon Valley Pride for a more inclusive South Bay focus.

The 39th annual festival will take place Sunday, August 17 at Discovery Meadow in San Jose. As in recent years, the festival will be a one-day event. The last San Jose pride parade was held in 2009.

The Silicon Valley Pride board meets every Thursday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Billy De Frank LGBT Community Center, 938 The Alameda.


Marriage & Legal Protections Nationwide: New Interactive Maps

Lambda Legal has interactive maps that help you to see at a glance the progress of marriage equality and other legal protections nationwide. Select any state to learn more about its legal protections for LGBT people and their families: www.lambdalegal.org/states-regions

Keep up to date with pending marriage equality cases here: www.lambdalegal.org/pending-marriage-equality-cases Colors indicate how recently each state’s cases have been updated. ▼
New San Mateo County LGBTQ Commission

On June 3, 2014 the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors approved the creation of a new LGBTQ Commission. Carol spoke on behalf of PFLAG in support of creating the Commission.

Seeking Applicants!

Do you live in San Mateo County? You can MAKE HISTORY by becoming one of the first members of the new San Mateo County LGBTQ Commission, the first commission of its kind in California!

The application period is SHORT: the deadline is August 8. Interested? Apply today!

Go to www.smchealth.org/node/882, and click on the LGBTQ Commission for the press release and the link to the application.

San Mateo County Commission on Aging

Commissioners are also needed for the San Mateo Commission on Aging. Its mission is to maintain, enhance and improve the quality of life for older adults in San Mateo County through the promotion of independence and self sufficiency, mental and physical health, and social and community involvement. Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month, 9:00 - 11:00 AM, Room 100, 225 37th Avenue, San Mateo.

The commission is composed of San Mateo County residents at least 60% of whom are aged 60 or older. Members shall reflect the geographic, racial, ethnic, economic and social composition of the County. LGBT and African-American residents are especially encouraged to apply. See these websites for details: www.smchealth.org/node/882 and www.smchealth.org/node/882

San Mateo County Pride Festival

June 14, 2014 • San Mateo Central Park

Ken and Nancy staffed the PFLAG table at the 2nd annual San Mateo County Pride festival in San Mateo’s Central Park on June 14. About 400 people were in attendance.

In our struggle for freedom, truth is the only weapon we possess.

Dalai Lama
The PFLAG Newsletter

Published seven times yearly by San Jose/Peninsula Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays • www.pflagsanjose.org
P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087
Phone: (408) 270-8182

Peninsula Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays is a tax-exempt, volunteer, community-based nonprofit organization. The San Jose/Peninsula chapter is a member of PFLAG National which is headquartered in Washington, D.C.

Your contribution is tax-deductible to the full extent provided by law.

Would you like to volunteer?
Call the information lines.
We need your help — Call today!

PFLAG'S MISSION

We provide love and support for all family members and friends. We work to create an environment of understanding so that our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender loved ones can live with dignity and respect. These are our goals:

SUPPORT • EDUCATION • ADVOCACY

WHAT IS PFLAG?

PFLAG is Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays. We are a national support, education and advocacy organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) people, their families, friends and allies. With 200,000 members and supporters, and local affiliates in more than 500 communities across the U.S. and abroad, PFLAG is the largest grassroots-based family organization of its kind. PFLAG is a non-profit organization and is not affiliated with any religious or political institutions.

Your financial support makes PFLAG's work possible. As a chapter member you can also become engaged in the vital work of providing support, education and advocacy in your community. Even if you're not sure that you need PFLAG, remember that PFLAG NEEDS YOU!

MEMBERSHIP IN SAN JOSE / PENINSULA PFLAG ~ 2014

Send in this coupon to join, renew, or change your address!

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- Diva $1,000 and up
- Student or Newsletter Only $15
- Gift Newsletter Subscription $8
  (for those who are already members to give to others too far away to come to meetings)
- Donation for Scholarships $____
- Endowment Fund $____

*Required for PDF Newsletter. Send PDF? YES NO (circle one)

Make checks payable and mail to: PFLAG • PO Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087. Your donations & membership are tax deductible.

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