IF YOUR CONSTITUENTS ASK . . .
QUESTION: How can you support gay rights? Civil rights to gays would condone homosexuality!

ANSWER: Legislation to protect gay people from discrimination would not endorse or approve homosexuality.

Just as the inclusion of “religion” in civil rights laws does not indicate support for any particular religion, religion in general or even an absence of religion (Atheism), neither would gay civil rights legislation indicate support for “homosexuality” per se.

The civil rights legislation would simply guarantee that an irrelevant factor, such as one’s sexual orientation would not be a criterion used to fire or refuse employment to a qualified employee.

A long and growing list of organizations and religious denominations and organizations understand that civil rights laws are not designed as a “Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval,” but as a recourse to arbitrary discrimination. (See list on page 4)

QUESTION/STATEMENT: Your support for gay rights is anti-religion. Homosexuality is a sin!

ANSWER: While prominent theologians disagree on whether homosexuality is a sin, our Constitution wisely mandated a clear separation between church and state. In other words, the religious beliefs of some cannot constitutionally be used as justification for legalized discrimination.

Many religious organizations understand that supporting civil rights for homosexuals does not suggest any judgment about the morality of homosexuality. Further, they understand that discrimination is immoral and contrary to religious convictions.

“The Governing Board reiterates the Christian conviction that all persons are entitled to full civil rights and equal protection...and urges its member churches and their constituencies to work to ensure the enactment of legislation at the national, state and local levels that would guarantee the civil rights of all persons without regard to their affectional or sexual preference.” -National Council of Churches (representing 32 Protestant and Orthodox denominations)

“Some people find themselves, through no fault of their own, to have homosexual orientations.

Homosexuals, like everyone else, should not suffer from prejudice against their basic human rights. They have a right to respect, friendship and justice.” -The U.S. National Council of Catholic Bishops

QUESTION/STATEMENT: Gay rights legislation is a threat to the nuclear family and you are, therefore, anti-family.

ANSWER: Homosexuals, like heterosexuals, have fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, etc. They share the same values as the families which raise them. Because of that, most gay people cherish the family unit.

There is no evidence that passage of gay civil rights legislation will change the number or percentage of homosexuals in the United States. Virtually all information indicates that the percentage of homosexuals has remained constant through time.

Surely the nuclear family is not so fragile that by simply giving a group of American citizens basic civil rights it would be undermined.

The White House Conference on Families, Eastern Region, recognizes that civil rights for gay people poses no threat to the family, passing this resolution:

“We support policies which preserve and protect basic legal and human rights of all family members. To guarantee these rights we support:

Elimination of discrimination and encourage respect for differences based on sex, race,...sexual preference.”

QUESTION/STATEMENT: Wouldn’t the gay rights bill you’re supporting give homosexuals special rights and privileges? It will take away the employer’s right to hire whomever he wants.

ANSWER: The proposed gay civil rights legislation would not give homosexuals any “special privileges”. It would only guarantee basic civil rights - rights taken for granted by most in our nation.

An employer would still be free to hire and fire whomever they choose, providing that job qualification and performance is the criterion and not an irrelevant private matter such as sexual orientation.

The proposed civil rights legislation does not in any way require quotas or affirmative action, just as
we don't now require employers to hire certain numbers of Lutherans, Norwegians, etc.

QUESTION/STATEMENT: This legislation will set a dangerous precedent. Who knows where it could lead?

ANSWER: The principle of civil rights legislation is not new. It's been around a long time. All it says is that people should be judged as individuals rather than on the basis of group stereotypes. That principle, hopefully, is becoming part of the fabric of American life.

In those cities where that principle has been extended to include homosexuals it has worked well. Despite the dire predictions by some, there have been no problems.

QUESTION/STATEMENT: Gay rights legislation is just one more anti-business measure.

ANSWER: Hiring the best possible employees based on their ability to do the job makes good business sense.

In the words of Penn Mutual: "Equality of opportunity is a sound business objective that, by allowing us to make effective use of our human resources, helps us secure profitable growth."

Many major corporations have come to appreciate the business advantages of non-discrimination. Among those that have voluntarily adopted non-discrimination policies toward homosexuals are AT&T, Dupont, Ford Motors and IBM. (See list on page 4)

QUESTION/STATEMENT: Gay rights legislation will force schools to hire homosexuals and may expose my son to them.

ANSWER: The issue of concern to parents is rightfully teacher misconduct, not sexual orientation. Teachers can be fired for misconduct, with or without this law. Many cities have adopted ordinances guaranteeing civil rights for gays. Those ordinances have caused no problems because they don't protect misconduct. And neither would a federal bill.

People sometimes forget that there have always been many gay teachers and there will be gay teachers with or without this law.

QUESTION/STATEMENT: Won't homosexuals use their teaching positions to recruit children and turn them into homosexuals? And wouldn't just the presence of homosexual teachers lead impressionable children to be gay?

ANSWER: Even Ronald Reagan, perhaps the foremost conservative spokesperson, agrees that homosexual teachers probably do not really influence the sexuality of their students:

"As to the 'role model' argument, a woman writing to the editor of a southern California newspaper said it all: 'If teachers had such power over children, I would have been a nun years ago'."

Reagan continued: "Whatever else it is, homosexuality is not a contagious disease like the measles. Prevailing scientific opinion is that a child's teachers do not really influence this."

Sexuality cannot be taught or learned like history or mathematics. Experts agree. Dr. John Money of Johns Hopkins University, asserts that a child's sexual orientation is determined by age 3 or 4.

Dr. John Spiegel, then-president of the American Psychiatric Association, commented, "Some have feared that homosexual teachers might affect the sexual orientation of their students. There is no evidence to support this thesis."
Some of the religious denominations and organizations who oppose discrimination based on sexual orientation:

National Council of Churches
U.S. National Council of Catholic Bishops
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
The Lutheran Church in America
National Assembly of Religious Brothers
Presbyterian Church in the United States
United Methodist Church
The Episcopal Church
National Coalition of American Nuns
United Presbyterian Church
The Unitarian-Universalist Association
The United Church of Christ
Central Conference of American Rabbis
National Assembly of Religious Women
Catholic Coalition for Gay Civil Rights

Partial list of organizations supportive of gay civil rights:

American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Civil Liberties Union
American Federation of Teachers
National Education Association
National Organization for Women
National Women's Political Caucus
Young Women's Christian Association
American Personnel and Guidance Association
Americans for Democratic Action
American Jewish Congress
National Association of Social Workers
American Sociological Association
American Public Health Association
Hispanic-American Democrats
American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors and Therapists

A partial list of corporations which have stated that they do not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation:

American Telephone and Telegraph
Bank of America
Eastern Airlines, Inc.
Firestone Tire and Rubber
Ford Motor Co.
General Mills
Mobil Oil
Penn Mutual Life
Pillsbury Co.
Xerox

Among the over 40 municipalities with gay civil rights ordinances:

Washington, D.C.
Seattle, Washington
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Tucson, Arizona
Detroit, Michigan
Los Angeles, California
Madison, Wisconsin
San Francisco, California

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