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JODY M. HUCKABY



June 8, 2006

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush,

It is my honor to serve Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) as national president. We are the nation's largest family organization dedicated to equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender citizens. PFLAG proudly sponsors over 500 grassroots chapters and affiliates with locations in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. I write on behalf of our members, over 200,000 parents, family members and supporters, in expressing our outrage over your recent, very public, statements in support of the Federal Marriage Amendment.

You are using the full prestige and weight of your office to advocate for an amendment to the United States Constitution that, for the first time since the abolition of slavery, seeks for all time to perpetuate discrimination against a class of citizens. We fail to understand why perpetuating the oppression of our family members should be a national priority.

In the very same speech, you state that "every American deserves to be treated with tolerance and respect and dignity." How you can say this when you lobby for a change of our Constitution that permanently consigns our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender children, family members and loved ones to second class citizenship is utterly beyond comprehension.

You argue that this decision belongs with the people. In the long history of our country, ending discrimination against an oppressed minority has rarely begun as the will of the majority. Because the majority of the people desire a certain action does not make that action right or just. Placing this issue before the people may simply be subjecting yet one more oppressed minority to the tyranny of the majority.

I deeply believe that, like every other citizen of this great country, my daughter deserves to be treated in every aspect of her life with the same respect and dignity as flows so naturally to her two brothers and to your two daughters. As Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, all we want for our children, families and loved ones is that they have full access to all the rights, privileges and obligations of full participation in citizenship, including the rights and obligations that come with civil marriage, the right to build a family. In the name of "family values," it is these very rights that you would have them denied by our Constitution.

Mr. President, I remind you that you have an obligation to govern on behalf of every citizen of this country, not just the slim majority who elected you, nor on behalf of the vocal minority who would have you advance their discriminatory and sectarian special agenda. This country was founded on the concept of liberty and justice for all. For the President of the United States to advocate and lobby for discrimination against and oppression of any group of citizens is an inappropriate and, frankly, cowardly use of the power of the office and is inexcusable, not to say, unforgivable.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Thoron". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Samuel Thoron
National President
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays