

Georgia insight

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*"She hath done what she could."
Mark 14:8a*

Is the Day of Silence Coming to Your Child's School?

April 25th, Day of Silence to Promote Homosexuality in Schools

It started in colleges. A systematic, consistent strategy for homosexual acceptance in schools sprouted in 1996 from an idea an 18-year-old put in writing. Her subject: organizing grassroots for non-violent protests. It evolved into a student "day of silence" (DOS) to publicize, promote and present homosexuality as a desirable, normal preference entitled to undisputed acceptance.

The year it started, 150 students at the University of Virginia, reportedly, gained wide-spread local press coverage after declining to speak in class. A year later, renamed the National Day of Silence, supporters claimed 100 colleges and universities observed it that year. By 1998, it was said to be in 200 schools and, sometime in 1999 – 2001, the first National Project Coordinator called a meeting with volunteers for a weekend of strategy in Boston. By then, DOS had moved into secondary schools and added *300 high schools to their participant list*.

Within five years DOS was in high schools and headed to middle schools. Also by 2001, the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network (GLSEN) had become the official organizational sponsor, complete with funding, staff and volunteers. GLSEN developed a DOS Project Advisory Board and a Leadership Team of students to further hone their skills in getting DOS and related activities in high schools. The United States Student Association became a partner to make sure colleges and universities would not be short-changed when high schools became the focus. In April 2002, dayofsilence.org reported it as "a national effort involving hundreds of groups and *thousands of students in both high schools and colleges around the country.*"

In 2002, the list in Georgia included 15 high schools and 5 colleges. That increased to 28¹ in Georgia schools *this year*, presented on page 15 of a missionamerica.com 38 page-ten-point-type list GLSEN says will participate in DOS April 25th. Colleges and universities aren't listed.

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|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Atlanta International | 10. Etowah High | 19. Paideia School |
| 2. Berkmar High | 11. Grady High | 20. Pebblebrook High |
| 3. Brookwood High | 12. Kennesaw Mountain | 21. Rabun Gap Nacoochee |
| 4. Campbell High | High | 22. South Cobb High |
| 5. Collins Hill High | 13. Lakeside High | 23. South Gwinnett High |
| 6. DeKalb School of the | 14. Lassiter High | 24. Sprayberry High |
| Arts | 15. Norcross High | 25. The Galloway School |
| 7. Druid Hills High | 16. North Gwinnett High | 26. White County High |
| 8. Duluth High | 17. North Springs High | 27. Walton High |
| 9. Dunwoody High | 18. Northgate High | 28. Windsor Forest High |

ACTION – If a school in your district is listed above, ask the principal, teacher and local school board what they'll do if DOS occurs. DOS is, probably, not a school project. Students/teachers/others may register online without authorization.

¹ Schools said to have been removed from the list include Henry County High; Madison County High; Chattahoochee High; Harris County High; Parkview High; McEachern High; Lassiter High; Sprayberry High. (If your school is listed in this footnote as well as in the above, please check to see whether two schools in Georgia have the same name.)

A Good Court Case: The Legal Moment of Silence vs. Stealth Day of Silence

Although Georgia law allows only a *moment of silence daily* for student meditation, an entire “day of silence” (DOS) has been promoted in schools across the country every year since 1996. This year, Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network (GLSEN) asks students to *be silent during school for nine hours on April 25th to “protest the plight of homosexuals.”* Teachers who choose to participate are encouraged to prepare lessons students can do silently in class.

Pro-homosexual students and teachers will distribute information cards explaining what they’re doing. They’re encouraged to dress the part – “dyke out,” wear stickers, buttons and GLSEN T-shirts with pro-homosexual messages. Rainbow banners may be stretched across halls and doorways. Posters with contact numbers for lifestyle contacts and counseling may be on walls. “Straight” students and teachers may be invited to after-school festivities hosted by lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) participants and members of a gay-straight alliance club.

Oppose Other¹ “Day” Observances that Promote Homosexuality

January: “No Name-Calling Week” is an “anti-bullying” strategy that sounds okay until it’s studied a little further. On the surface, it might be thought of as targeting terms like “four-eyes” or “shorty” or “fatso,” but that’s not the case any more. No name-calling week is a strategy to stop all negative comments about homosexuality and its variations. In effect, it silences negative opinions about lifestyles by denying students their constitutional freedom of speech.

October: “Coming Out” Day and “Allies” Week encourage children to publicly declare that they are homosexual, bisexual or of the opposite sex. Kids who “come out,” ask their “allies” (friends) to stand with them to support their decision, a maneuver to desensitize “straight” kids.

November: “Transgender Day of Remembrance” memorializes dead “transsexual, crossdresser, or other gender-variant” persons. A Brentwood, California middle school just outside the Bay Area canceled a cross-dressing day, advertised as a “gender switch” day, but it wasn’t stopped because a mother of a seventh-grader complained. She was told she could keep her son home if he didn’t want to participate. DOS was cancelled only after Pacific Justice Institute² began laying groundwork to hold the school accountable to the public, if the “day” was observed.

November: *Mix-It-Up at Lunch Day* began as interaction with children to get them outside their “clique,” but developed into a pro-homosexual day in some schools. In a high school last year, those seated at a homosexual-sponsored lunch table did not tolerate other viewpoints.

Support The Day of Truth, April 26th to Counteract the Day of Silence

The Alliance Defense Fund established the Day of Truth (DOT) to be observed the day after DOS. DOT is designed to “counter the promotion of the homosexual agenda and express an opposing viewpoint from a Christian perspective.” DOT reminds students, teachers, and others that the constitution assures our First Amendment freedom to speak the Truth, even about human sexuality. No one can legally deny that right. DOT cards and T-shirts explain:

I am speaking the Truth to break the silence. Silence isn’t freedom. It’s a constraint. Truth tolerates open discussion, because the Truth emerges when healthy discourse is allowed. By proclaiming the Truth in love, hurts will be halted, hearts will be healed, and lives will be saved.

¹ **ACTION** – Ask whether local schools allow observance of these days, also. Source: www.missionamerica.com/agenda

² **ACTION** – Ask schools in your community to observe the Day of Truth. www.pacificjustice.org

Oppose: S.R. 279, Expand Senate Terms to Four Years

Everyone concedes that the best government is the government closest to the people.

Since S.R. 297 moves senators two years further away from the people and provides an easier way for representatives to extend their terms, it does *not* improve Georgia government.

Therefore, it should be opposed.

Background. This is *not* the first time a bill like S.R. 279 has been introduced and it won't be the last, if it fails to pass this session. It increases to four years the current two-year terms of the 56 state senators serving in the Georgia General Assembly. In addition, it provides a method by which the 180 members of the *House of Representatives may, by simply passing a law, extend their terms* without amending the constitution, which is a more difficult process. Actually, House members could amend this resolution to change their terms, also, if they choose to do so.

S.R. 279, introduced by Senator John Douglas on February 20, 2007, passed the Senate March 1, 2007 and was left in the House Governmental Affairs Committee until this year's session. The author did not push for passage in 2007 because proposed constitutional amendments may be placed on ballots *in even-numbered years only*.

S.R. 279 proposes these changes to Article III, Section II, Paragraph V of the Constitution:

1. Members of the House of Representatives could change their terms by, simply, passing a law without further amending the Constitution.
That puts government further away from voters, who would have no opportunity to vote for or against extending the current two-year term of representatives.
2. Current two-year terms of senators would expand to four years.
Doubling the terms of senators puts them two-years further from voter clout.
3. The changes would not affect the 2008 election, but would be as follows:
 - November 2010 would be the first election to affect senatorial term lengths.
 - At that time, senators from odd-numbered districts would be elected to two-year terms.
 - Also at that time, senators from even-numbered districts would be elected to four-year terms.
 - Subsequent elections for senators would be every two years until a law passes to determine the new election day.
 - Thereafter, in subsequent elections, all members of the senate would be elected to four-year terms.

If S.R. 279 passes both House and Senate by a two-thirds vote, final passage will require a majority vote by Georgians, who would be asked this question on the November ballot:

Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to provide for staggered, four-year terms of office for members of the Senate of the General Assembly of Georgia in a similar manner to the members of the United States Senate?

ACTION – Oppose. Call House Governmental Affairs Representatives Austin Scott, Ch., 404 656-5132; Geisinger, 656-0254; Burns, 656-0213; Butler, 463-2247; Chambers, 656-3949; Hamilton, 656-0188; Hatfield, 656-0109; Meadows, 656-0298; O'Neal, 656-5103; Brooks, 656-6372; Floyd, 656-0314; Morgan, 656-0109; Mosby, 656-0287; and Powell, 656-0202.

Support H.R. 127: No U.S. Citizenship for Newborns of Illegal Aliens

Representative Bobby Reese introduced H.R. 127 January 31st. Its March 18th passage from the Judiciary Committee sent it to the House Rules Committee, the last stop before a full House vote. Selected quotes are:

WHEREAS, as an immigrant society, the United States should welcome and embrace legal immigrants and provide full citizenship to children of legal residents of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the United States is facing a crisis of illegal immigration into this country; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that there are 12 million to 30 million persons living in the United States illegally; and

WHEREAS, under the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, a person born in this country becomes a citizen of this country based solely upon the fact of the person's birth within the United States; and

WHEREAS, allowing children born in this country to become citizens solely by virtue of their birth in this country, when neither of the child's parents is a citizen or legal resident of the United States, is not in the best interests of this nation; and

WHEREAS, Congress should act quickly to propose and submit to the states for ratification an amendment to the Constitution of the United States that provides that a person born in this country becomes a citizen at birth only if one or more of the child's parents are United States citizens or legal residents of the United States at the time of the child's birth, before the problem becomes more dire than it already is.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Vice president Richard Cheney, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi, and each member of the Georgia congressional delegation.

ACTION – Support. Contact Rules **Republican** Representatives Ehrhart, Ch., 404 656-5141; Parrish, 656-0213; Mills, 656-5099; Barnard, 656-5138; Bridges, 656-5143; Burkhalter, 656-5072; Casas, 656-0254; Channell, 656-7856; Coan, 656-6801; Cooper, 463-8142; Fleming, 656-5024; Golick, 651-7737; Keen, 656-5052; Lane, 656-5115; Lewis, 656-9198; Lunsford, 656-7146; Millar, 656-5064; Ralston, 656-5943; Rice, 656-5912; Roberts, 656-5025; Austin Scott, 656-5132; Vance Smith, 656-7153; Lynn Smith, 656-7149; Bob Smith 463-2247; Stephens, 656-5122; Len Walker, 656-5139; Willard, 656-5124; and **Democrat** Representatives Hugley, 656-5058; Porter, 656-5058; Cheokas, 656-0325; Hanner and Shaw, 656-7859; Jacobs, 656-0152; Mosby, 656-0287; Parham, 656-0202; Randall, 656-0109; Smyre, 656-0116.

Support: S.R. 686 Freezes Residential Property Taxes

Senator Eric Johnson of District 1 introduced S.R. 686 to freeze existing residential real estate values and require appraisals for ad valorem tax to be set at fair market value when the owner acquired the property. Substantial upgrades may increase taxes, but not beyond inflation rates.

However, the freeze would *not* transfer. If the property is sold, its reassessment will be based on that sales price and the new tax assessment will be frozen until the property is sold again.

Since S.R. 686 is a proposed constitutional amendment, it would be on the November general election ballot for voters to decide, if it passes by a two-thirds vote in both House and Senate.

ACTION – Support. Call Ways & Means Ad Valorem Tax Subcommittee Representatives Royal, Co-Ch., 404 656-0265; Sims, Co-Ch., and Mosby, 656-0287; Stephens, Sec.-Vice Ch., 656-5099; Bob Bryant, 656-0298; Harbin (ex-officio), and Jan Jones, 463-2247; O'Neal, 656-5103; Peake, 656-0188; Jay Roberts, 656-5025; Martin Scott, 656-0254; and Tumlin, 656-0177.

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