

## CRC Representative Speech to the Maryland State Board of Education

December 6, 2005

The Maryland State Board of Education's Bullying Prevention website contains significant references to inaccurate information from advocacy groups with agendas contrary to the interest of our children.

Our specific concern is with a document identified on the Maryland State Board of Education's Website<sup>i</sup>[1] about Bullying in the Schools. This document<sup>ii</sup>[2], ***Bullying in Schools: Harassment Puts Gay Youth At Risk***, from The National Mental Health Association [NMHA] contains factually incorrect information and thus is in direct violation of the Code of Maryland Regulations, COMAR, 13A.04.18.03.<sup>iii</sup> [3]Note: NMHA is not a Federal Agency]<sup>iv</sup>[4]

Providing this incorrect information for schools puts an unreasonable and possibly illegal burden on the local school systems. For example, the Montgomery County schools are mandated to provide factually accurate and current information to the students.<sup>v</sup>[5]

This NMHA document was in a list of teacher resources that was discarded May 23, 2005 by Dr. Jerry Weast, Superintendent of Montgomery County Schools, along with the flawed Montgomery County sex-ed curriculum in response to U.S. District Judge Alexander Williams, Jr.'s May 5, 2005 written opinion in the lawsuit brought by CRC and Parents and Friends of Ex-gays and Gays (PFOX).

Why is the State now including this flawed, inaccurate and biased document on its website?

A few examples of incorrect and/or misleading information found in this document.

1. A false assertion that gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth are significantly more likely to commit suicide than other youth, is from a 1989 Report from the Secretary's Task Force on Youth Suicide (Paul Gibson, US Department of Health and Human Services). *This information was identified by the Surgeon General in 1999 as having "no empirical data on completed suicides to support such assertions"*<sup>vi</sup>[6] *and this entire report was denounced by then Health and Human Services Secretary, Dr. Louis Sullivan.*<sup>vii</sup>[7] *Even the U.S. National Institute of Mental Health states: "In the few studies examining risk factors for suicide where sexual orientation was assessed, the risk for gay or lesbian persons did not appear any greater than among heterosexuals, once mental and substance abuse disorders were taken into account."* "there are no clear link between youth's sexual orientation and the likelihood of attempting suicide."<sup>viii</sup>[8]
2. The six action items suggested in the NMHA document under, "Help end bullying at your school with the following actions:" are not derived from any published, peer reviewed, scientific study and therefore there is no evidence that following the recommendations will even lead to fewer incidents of bullying nor is there any mention from the unknown author that this is the case.
3. The statement in the NMHA document that, "Gay teens in U.S. schools are often subjected to such intense bullying that they're unable to receive an adequate education." comes from a Human Rights Watch non-scientific survey of only 140 youths between the ages of twelve and twenty-one without any indication of the age distribution within this very limited sampling. And since when are 20-21 year olds teenagers? [Human Rights Watch, has consistently endorsed a pro-homosexual agenda.]

Further, this NMHA document inexplicably refers the reader to non-professional, non-medical homosexual advocacy groups such as PFLAG, [Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays] and GLSEN [Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network]. Note that PFLAG supports the surgical mutilation of mentally ill transgendered people and GLSEN has actively supported and encouraged the teaching of techniques for anal intercourse in the Massachusetts Public Schools through workshops and distribution of materials like *The Little Black Book*, *Queer in the 21st Century*.<sup>ix</sup>[9][HERE]

Equally troubling, the NMHA document explicitly endorses GLSEN's proposal to "Help start a Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) chapter at your local high school". These GLSEN clubs "work to eliminate policies that require parental permission for participation in the [Gay/Straight] student clubs"<sup>x</sup>[10]. In other words, the NMHA document actively encourages student participation in an organization that encourages homosexual activity, including sodomy without the parents knowing.

This NMHA document is in violation of COMAR's requirement for accurate information as well as individual, local BOE guidelines. **Please withdraw it from the website.**

While I have focused primarily on ONE especially egregious document referenced on the State Board website, another, also biased and incorrect cite is:

*“Teach Respect”*, from *Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network (GLSEN)*. The Maryland State BOE website on Bullying lists four items which are described as teacher resources. At least one of these items is clearly not a resource at all but rather an advertisement for an organization’s agenda. The item “Teach Respect” is a policy pronouncement by Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), the same organization that advocated anal and oral sodomy in the Massachusetts public schools. “Teach Respect” provides no credible references or data and is merely GLSEN’s agenda driven opinion.  
Thank You.

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[1]<sup>1</sup>[http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/msde/divisions/studentschoolsvcs/student\\_services\\_alt/bullyingunder](http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/msde/divisions/studentschoolsvcs/student_services_alt/bullyingunder)

[2]<sup>1</sup> Bullying in Schools: Harassment Puts Gay Youth at Risk

<http://www.nmha.org/pbedu/backtoschool/bullyingGayYouth.cfm>

[3]<sup>1</sup>COMAR 13A.04.18.03 “The local school system shall appoint a joint committee of educators and representatives of the community that shall examine all instructional materials proposed to be used in the schools. The committee's recommendations shall be submitted to the local superintendent of schools and the local board of education for final action. The local school system shall use its existing procedures for evaluating reading levels, **factual content**, and general suitability of material for different levels of instruction”. [emphasis added]

[4]<sup>1</sup> NMHA is a non-profit organization and not associated with the U.S. Federal Government. “The Association’s primary sources of revenue are grants and contributions from foundations, government agencies and corporate industry and membership dues received from affiliated organizations nationwide.” NMHA website

[5]<sup>1</sup> The Montgomery County guide for “Comprehensive Health Education” states: “It is essential that information provided to students be **factually accurate** and current. As a general rule, resources that are more than five years old should be carefully scrutinized, and if at all possible should be replaced.”[emphasis added]

[6]<sup>1</sup> From the Surgeon General’s Call to Action,1999, [www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/calltoaction/fact3.htm](http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/calltoaction/fact3.htm) “It has been widely reported that gay and lesbian youth are two to three times more likely to commit suicide than other youth and that 30 percent of all attempted or completed youth suicides are related to issues of sexual identity. There are no empirical data on completed suicides to support such assertions,…”

[7]<sup>1</sup> This flawed statement used the supporting data from a study (1989) that was written by homosexual activist Paul Gibson and denounced by then Health and Human Services Secretary, Dr. Louis Sullivan. Gibson used the flawed 10% Kinsey statistic in generating his 30% figure. Also Gibson speculated that 3000 gay teens kill themselves each year however this estimated figure exceeded the total of all teen suicides, which in 1989 was about 2000!

[8]<sup>1</sup> National Institute of Mental Health, Frequently Asked Questions about Suicide, (January 3, 2000)

[9]<sup>1</sup> This booklet was distributed to **hundreds of kids (middle school age and up)** at Brookline High School, Brookline, MA, on **April 30, 2005**. It was written by the Boston-based AIDS Action Committee, with help with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Boston Public Health Commission.

The event that day was designed for children and their teachers across Massachusetts, **organized by the "Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network" (GLSEN)**. **GLSEN is the group that runs "Gay-Straight Alliance" clubs in public schools across the country.**

[10]<sup>1</sup> GLSEN website

## A page from the "The Little Black Book - Queer in the 21st Century"

This booklet was distributed to hundreds of kids (middle school age and up) at Brookline High School, Brookline, MA, on **April 30, 2005 organized by GLSEN**. It was written by the Boston-based AIDS Action Committee, with help with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Here is a two page sample from this booklet:

### HOW SAFE IS DAT?

**IF YOU ARE HOOKING UP, HERE IS SOME STUFF TO PONDER. GETTING TESTED FOR SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES (STDs) EVERY 3-6 MONTHS IS A GOOD IDEA EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY SYMPTOMS.**


**FUCKIN'** Next to sharing needles, fucking without a condom is the easiest way to spread HIV. Most STDs can be spread this way as well.

**SUCKIN'** There has been a lot of mixed messages around this. It is a challenge to know for sure how safe sucking dick is, but research shows it is low risk for HIV if there are no sores in the mouth or bleeding gums. It is NOT low risk for many STDs.

**SPIT OR SWALLOW?** Not getting cum in your mouth reduces your risk of getting some STDs and HIV. If a guy cums in your mouth it probably doesn't make much difference if you spit or swallow. You can get gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, hep B and herpes. Risk for HIV is low as long as you don't have sores in your mouth or bleeding gums.

**RIMMING? (LICKIN' BUTT)** The risk for transmitting HIV from rimming is very low. But risk for hepatitis A, herpes, shigella and intestinal parasites is high.

**WATERSPORTS (PISS PLAY)** There is little risk of STD infection and no risk of HIV infection from playing with pee. It is possible that hepatitis can be spread this way so avoid getting pee in your mouth and get that vaccination.



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### HOW SAFE IS DAT?

#### FISTING


What makes fisting risky when it comes to diseases is that the blood vessels in the rectum are close to the surface which means damage can occur easily and go unnoticed. Avoid too much alcohol or drugs if you fist or get fisted. Know your limits and those of your partners. Trauma can increase the risk for HIV when you get fucked so you might want to do your fucking before fisting. Use lots of lube, condoms and latex gloves.

#### TOYS

Sharing toys can be fun, and fortunately they are easy to keep clean. A good idea is to put condoms on your toys, replace the condom between users, and use lots of lube. If you don't have any rubbers, clean those toys well with lots of soap and hot water. There is some risk of hepatitis, herpes, warts and parasites.

#### MUTUAL JERKIN' OFF

Jerking off together can be a hot and safer way to have fun. This is a safe activity for HIV. Some STDs can be transmitted by touching, but all-in-all this is pretty low-risk, boys!



**AS YOU CAN SEE, IT CAN BE HARD TO BE SURE YOU ARE SAFE FROM ALL STDs. IF YOU ARE HAVING SEX, GET TESTED EVERY 3-6 MONTHS! IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, CALL THE HOTLINE!**

**Massachusetts HIV/AIDS  
STD hotline: 1.800.235.2331**

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In addition, the booklet provides a list of bars and clubs "for the discerning queerboy." Remember, this goes to middle school kids. **Is this the path Maryland wants to follow?**