

Liberty Counsel  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 16, 2008**

## **Students Have the Right Not to Remain Silent on the Day of Silence**

Orlando, FL – The annual "Day of Silence," sponsored by the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network (GLSEN), will be celebrated in many public schools. This event encourages students to remain silent on April 25. GLSEN claims the event counteracts bullying, but it is merely promoting an anti-heterosexual viewpoint. Schools can teach students the value of respect without accepting GLSEN's propaganda event. Many states, like Florida, for example, have laws that require abstinence-based education when sexuality is discussed, so the school cannot recognize the Day of Silence without promoting abstinence.

Some school administrators do not understand that students cannot be penalized for refusing to observe the Day of Silence. Here are some recent complaints Liberty Counsel has received:

**Florida** - A principal told a father that if his son was not at school on the Day of Silence that the boy would fail the school year. **Indiana** - A public school is participating in the Day of Silence against the wishes of some parents. Parents were told that it is "against the law" to cancel the program and that any absences would be unexcused that day. **Iowa** - A school board member told a former student that a student refusing to speak on the Day of Silence was not anymore disruptive in a school setting than a "Christian wearing a cross." **Oklahoma** - A high school graduate wrote to her former principal to protest the celebration of the Day of Silence. The principal said that if he did not allow the Day of Silence, he could not allow Bible clubs and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. **South Dakota** - A student was told that if she is absent on the Day of Silence, she must write a paper explaining why she will not participate.

Parents can choose to keep their children home on the Day of Silence or support their children in a counter-observance of sexual purity. [Liberty Counsel distributed a legal memorandum](#) explaining how to protect schools from being hijacked by GLSEN's political agenda. Student conduct causing a substantial disruption or material interference with school activities is not protected under the First Amendment. If a teacher asks a student a question during class, the student does not have a right to remain silent.

Liberty Counsel is encouraging students to mount a counter-celebration to promote a [positive message of purity](#) on the Day of Silence. Students are encouraged to wear white and to distribute flyers promoting sexual purity whenever other students are permitted to distribute literature promoting the Day of Silence.

Mathew D. Staver, Founder of Liberty Counsel and Dean of Liberty University School of Law, commented: "When it comes to the Day of Silence, silence is not an option. Students have the right not to remain silent. Students can refuse to attend school. They may mount a counter-protest in support of purity and the traditional family. While schools may be required to allow clubs to meet on campus, schools do not have to promote the Day of Silence. Students do not have the right to remain silent when called upon by teachers. In those states that require abstinence instruction, schools may not tolerate clubs that promote sexual promiscuity."

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