

The Student Non-Discrimination Act (SNDA)

Senator Al Franken & Representative Jared Polis

Background

- Every day, students who are, or are perceived to be, lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) are subjected to pervasive discrimination, including harassment, bullying, intimidation and violence, which is harmful to both students and our education system. Surveys indicate as many as eight in ten LGBT students have been bullied.
- These hurtful actions deprive students of equal educational opportunities and contribute to high rates of absenteeism, dropout, adverse health consequences, and academic underachievement among LGBT youth. Left unchecked, discrimination can lead, and has led, to life-threatening violence and to suicide. And when school officials engage in discriminatory treatment, or are indifferent to harassing behavior, LGBT students' constitutional rights are infringed.
- While federal civil rights statutes expressly address discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin, they do not explicitly include sexual orientation or gender identity and, as a result, LGBT students and parents have often had limited legal recourse for this kind of discrimination.

What does the “Student Non-Discrimination Act” do?

- The “Student Non-Discrimination Act” (SNDA) would establish a comprehensive federal prohibition of discrimination in public schools based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.
- SNDA would provide protections for LGBT students and ensure that all students have access to public education in a safe environment free from discrimination, including harassment, bullying, intimidation and violence.
- SNDA would also provide meaningful and effective remedies (loss of federal funding and legal cause of action for victims) for discrimination in public schools based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, modeled after Title IX.

Supporting Organizations in Minnesota

- ✓ Advocates for Human Rights
- ✓ Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota
- ✓ Anoka Hennepin Gay Equity Team
- ✓ DaFeet Bullying
- ✓ Education Minnesota
- ✓ Family Equity Council-MN
- ✓ Human Rights Campaign (HRC)-Twin Cities
- ✓ Mental Health Association of Minnesota
- ✓ Minnesota AIDS Project
- ✓ Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health
- ✓ Minnesota Association for Volunteer Administration
- ✓ Minnesota Council of Child Caring Agencies
- ✓ Minnesota Lavender Bar Association
- ✓ Minnesota Psychological Association
- ✓ Minnesota School Counselor Association
- ✓ Minnesota School Outreach Coalition
- ✓ Minnesota School Social Workers Association
- ✓ OutFront Minnesota
- ✓ PACER Center
- ✓ PFLAG
- ✓ Rainbow Health Initiative
- ✓ Ranger Mental Health Center
- ✓ ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans For Full Participation
- ✓ SAVE (Suicide Awareness Voices of Education)
- ✓ Shades of Yellow
- ✓ St. Paul Federation of Teachers
- ✓ s.t.a.r.t. (students together as allies for racial trust)

Supporting Organizations

- ✓ Advocates for Youth
- ✓ African American Ministers in Action
- ✓ American Association of University Women (AAUW)
- ✓ American Federation of Teachers (AFT)
- ✓ American Civil Liberties Union
- ✓ American Counseling Association
- ✓ American Psychological Association
- ✓ American School Counselor Association
- ✓ Asian American Justice Center, member of the Asian American Center for Advancing Justice
- ✓ Association of Flight Attendants (CWA)
- ✓ Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
- ✓ Center for American Progress Action Fund
- ✓ CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
- ✓ Child Welfare League of America
- ✓ Communications Workers of America (CWA)
- ✓ Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
- ✓ Education Law Center
- ✓ The Episcopal Church
- ✓ Family Equality Council
- ✓ Friends Committee on National Legislation
- ✓ Gay-Straight Alliance Network
- ✓ GLAD (Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders)
- ✓ Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network
- ✓ GetEQUAL
- ✓ GMLA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality
- ✓ Healthy Teen Network
- ✓ Human Rights Campaign
- ✓ Immigration Equality Action Fund
- ✓ Interfaith Alliance
- ✓ Lambda Legal
- ✓ Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
- ✓ Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
- ✓ League of United Latin American Citizens
- ✓ Learning Disabilities Association of America
- ✓ LGBT Humanist Council
- ✓ Log Cabin Republicans
- ✓ NAACP
- ✓ National Association for Multicultural Education
- ✓ National Association of School Psychologists
- ✓ National Association of School Safety and Law Enforcement Officials
- ✓ National Association of Secondary School Principals
- ✓ National Black Justice Coalition
- ✓ National Center for Lesbian Rights
- ✓ National Center for Transgender Equality
- ✓ National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education
- ✓ National Council of Jewish Women
- ✓ National Council of La Raza
- ✓ National Council of Women's Organizations
- ✓ National Crittendon Foundation
- ✓ National Education Association (NEA)
- ✓ National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund
- ✓ National Network for Youth
- ✓ National Organization for Women
- ✓ National Women's Law Center
- ✓ PFLAG National
- ✓ People For the American Way
- ✓ Point Foundation
- ✓ Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
- ✓ SAVE (Suicide Awareness Voices of Education)
- ✓ School Social Work Association of America
- ✓ Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
- ✓ Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)
- ✓ Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
- ✓ Southern Poverty Law Center
- ✓ Transgender Law Center
- ✓ The Emily Project
- ✓ The Trevor Project
- ✓ Transgender Law Center
- ✓ Unid@s
- ✓ Union for Reform Judaism
- ✓ Unitarian Universalist Association
- ✓ United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
- ✓ United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
- ✓ Wider Opportunities for Women
- ✓ Women's Law Project
- ✓ Youth Activism Project
- ✓ YP4Action