



Conservative Group Examines 'Real Issue' in Foley Case

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(CNSNews.com) - "When a 16-year-old boy is not safe from sexual solicitation from an elected representative of the people, we should question the moral direction of our nation," a conservative advocacy group said on Monday.

The group also said Foley's behavior raises the "real issue" of homosexuality and child abuse.

Family Research Council President Tony Perkins noted that so many people -- Republicans and Democrats -- are "shocked" by former Rep. Mark Foley's sexually explicit instant messages to a teenage boy -- a House page at the time.

But we shouldn't be shocked, Perkins said: "This is the end result of a society that rejects sexual restraints in the name of diversity. If our children aren't safe in the halls of Congress, where are they safe? Maybe it's time to question: when is tolerance just an excuse for permissiveness?"

Perkins said both political parties need to be more serious about protecting children from sexual predators. "We need public policy in our country that protects marriage, respects parental authority and aggressively polices boundaries around our children," he said.

Perkins also questioned what he calls the "real issue" in the Foley case - the link between homosexuality and child abuse.

Perkins noted that Foley - an unmarried 52-year-old representative - has always refused to answer questions about his sexual orientation, but the release of Foley's messages to teenage male pages now makes it clear that "Foley is a homosexual with a particular attraction to underage boys."

"While pro-homosexual activists like to claim that pedophilia is a completely distinct orientation from homosexuality, evidence shows a disproportionate overlap between the two," Perkins said.

"Although almost all child molesters are male and less than 3 percent of men are homosexual, about a third of all child sex abuse cases involve men molesting boys -- and in one study, 86% of such men identified themselves as homosexual or bisexual," Foley said.

"Ignoring this reality got the Catholic Church into trouble over abusive priests, and now it is doing the same to the House GOP leadership. They discounted or downplayed earlier reports concerning Foley's behavior -- probably because they did not want to appear 'homophobic.'"

"The Foley scandal shows what happens when political correctness is put ahead of protecting children," Perkins said.

Homosexual advocacy groups have not had much to say about Foley's conduct. The Miami Herald quoted Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian

Task Force, as saying, "It's irrelevant if he (Foley) is gay or not."

The newspaper said the Human Rights Campaign refused to discuss Foley's resignation.

Neither group addresses the Foley case on their websites.

On Wednesday, Oct. 4, however, Chuck Wolfe, president and CEO of The Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, said Mark Foley's sexual orientation has no bearing on the scandal now unfolding in Washington.

"Attempts by some on the extreme right to link the two constitute a transparent effort to scapegoat gays and lesbians. The media and its political analysts should be careful not to defame hundreds of dedicated public servants and their families based on the improper behavior of one individual," Wolfe said.