

Lawmakers have left a 'terrible legacy'

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The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force together with the National Coalition for the Homeless recently released a report which states that up to 42 percent of homeless and runaway youths are gay. Several studies rate suicide attempts by gay youth to be two to three times that of heterosexual youth. In reality, children are the ones who suffer most from the effects of homophobia, whether it be those of same-sex couples who face taunting in school from classmates who have been taught to hate or the gay teenage children of straight parents who are afraid to tell their parents about their sexuality for fear of being banished from family life.

To the legislators who voted to put the same-sex marriage question on the ballot: We hope that you never have a child, grandchild, niece, nephew or child of a friend who has to deal with this issue because you have left a terrible legacy. You have told them that their sexuality, which they did not choose, makes them unequal citizens. Please do not try to rationalize by saying that same-sex marriage should be allowed but that we should "let the people vote" on it. If you truly believe that something is right and just and it is totally within the law at this time, why would you for one moment consider putting it to a public vote and risk having the right taken away?

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