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Teen Can Now Wear "Gay Gay" Shirt to School

The American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee and Lambda Legal said Monday they have received assurances that a student wearing T-shirts printed with pro-gay slogans won't be censored. The school also will train staff on the anti-bullying policy to avoid harassment of any student.

Cole Goforth, a freshman at Greenbrier High School, was sent home from school April 5 for wearing an "I (heart) Lady Gay Gay" T-shirt he purchased at a local mall. He and his mother contacted the ACLU and Lambda Legal after being told his attire "and any pro-gay messages" were "disruptive."

In addition, Goforth said he was the victim of daily harassment at school including threats of violence. He was told by one school employee that he had "brought [harassment] on himself by coming out."

"Sending Cole home for wearing a shirt with the word 'gay' on it not only trampled this student's right to freedom of expression, but also sent a destructive message to all students that there is something wrong with being gay or even saying the word 'gay,'" said Lambda Legal attorney Beth Littrell in a statement. "We are pleased that school officials have recognized their obligation to respect pro-LGBT speech and to protect students from anti-gay harassment instead of allowing bullies to silence speakers."

Apr. 20, 2010

News Article

<http://www.365gay.com/news/teen-can-now-wear-gay-gay-shirt-t...> [1]

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Ruth Schneider

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