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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
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