



**KENTUCKY EQUALITY
FEDERATION**



**Federation for Kentucky Equality, Inc.
Kentucky Equality Association/Federation**

PO Box 6028
Florence, KY 41022-6028

PH: (877) 4-KEF-HELP
FX: (859) 422-5011

commonwealth-equality.org
theequalityparty.org

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FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Jordan Palmer, Federation President

Nancy Couch, Secretary of the Federation

Sean Mason, Coalitions & Field Organizer

Clarence Wallace, Alliance & Membership Manager

**KENTUCKY EQUALITY FEDERATION CONDEMNS REPRESENTATIVE FISCHER'S STATEMENT THAT
HOMOSEXUALS CAN CHANGE THEIR SEXUAL ORIENTATION – PLANS A PROTEST AT NORTHERN
KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY DURING THE DEBATE WITH HIS OPPONENT**

Kentucky Equality Federation condemns comments by Representative Joseph Fischer (R-Fort Thomas) related to people being able to "change their sexuality" in an on-going debate with his opponent Linda Klembara (D-Fort Thomas).

Kentucky Equality Federation President Jordan Palmer stated "Representative Fischer stating *"It's OK to fire someone if they're gay,"* reminds me of something you'd read that someone said in a previous century; forced segregation, unequal pay for women, elitism, and sexism was also said to be "OK." We live in a republic founded on tolerance and the embracement of diversity; the comments made by Representative Fischer are a slap in the face to the people who lay their lives on the line everyday to protect the ideals the founders of our nation had."

Representative Fischer also stated "Historically, homosexuals haven't been discriminated against like women and blacks. They haven't suffered."

During World War II the deaths of 15,000 gay men in concentration camps are officially documented, though unofficial numbers reach as high as 600,000. German soldiers were known to use gay men for target practice, aiming their weapons at the pink triangles their human targets were forced to wear.

"Representative Fischer obviously has no clue what he's talking about," stated Palmer. "Does Representative Fischer know who Timothy Blair, Charles Poynter, Blaine Thackery, Jesse James Valencia, Guinn Phillips, or Barry Winchell are? They are native Kentuckians or people who where in Kentucky and murdered for their born sexual orientation. I'd really like to know Representative Fisher's definition of 'suffer,'" stated Palmer. "By Representative Fisher stating the gay community hasn't suffered he is in fact stating the gay community hasn't suffered enough; I'd like Representative Fisher to provide us with a number of exactly how many people need to suffer before he will acknowledge it."

Representative Fischer also stated "Obviously, people can change their sexual orientation, some psychologists have said so." In response, Kentucky Equality Federation challenges Representative Fischer to change his sexual orientation to homosexual for the next 48 hours.

The American Psychological Association in its Resolution on Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual

Orientation, which is also endorsed by the National Association of School Psychologists, states: That the American Psychological Association opposes portrayals of lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth and adults as mentally ill due to their sexual orientation and supports the dissemination of accurate information about sexual orientation, and mental health, and appropriate interventions in order to counteract bias that is based in ignorance or unfounded beliefs about sexual orientation.

Members of Kentucky Equality Federation and other fair-minded Kentuckians will be assembling and exercising their First Amendment right under the U.S. Constitution and Section I of the Kentucky Constitution on Wednesday evening prior to the debate.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

The Kentucky Equality Federation currently has nearly 6,000 members throughout the commonwealth. The Kentucky Equality Federation has three authorized chapters operating in the Bluegrass, Jackson Purchase, Northern, and Southeastern Regions of Kentucky.

The Kentucky Equality Federation's Advisory Council determines the Federation's platform, candidate political ratings, and chapter management.

The Kentucky Equality Federation is a member of the International Lesbian and Gay Association™, a monetary supporter of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund®, and advocate/supporter of the Military Equality Alliance.

The International Lesbian and Gay Association is a world-wide network of national and local groups dedicated to achieving equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) people everywhere. Founded in 1978, it now has more than 400 member organizations. Every continent and around 90 countries are represented. ILGA member groups range from small collectives to national groups and entire cities.



ILGA is to this day the only international non-profit and non-governmental community-based federation focused on presenting discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation as a global issue.

For additional information, visit our official website at www.commonwealth-equality.org, or www.theequalityparty.org.