

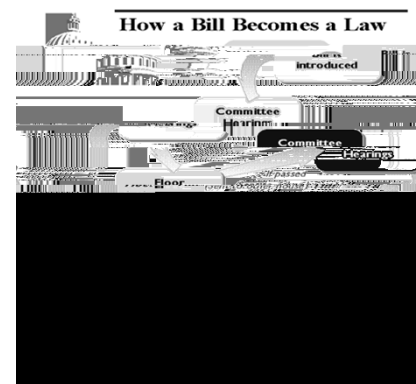
Legislative Issues That Affect LGBTQ Youth and Families

Presented By Wendy Rae Hill

Policy & The Legislative Process

When is Policy Developed?

- In response to social problems when it affects a significant number of people
- When the social problem gains the attention of influential, powerful people
- Social policies reflect the social and personal values of those with decision-making capabilities



A History of California Legislation Related to LGBTQ Youth & Families

1999

AB 537 – California Student Safety and Violence Prevention Act of 2000

- Added actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender (including gender identity and gender-related appearance and behavior) to the California Education Code non-discrimination policy.

2003

SB 71 – California Comprehensive Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Act

- Requires sexual health education to be more inclusive of healthy attitudes regarding gender, sexual orientation, dating, marriage, family, and body image.
- Requires materials and instruction to be medically accurate, age appropriate, objective and not based on religious doctrine.
- Removes "abstinence until marriage" from curriculum
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2010

SB 543 – Mental Health Services for At-Risk Youth

- Permits youth ages 12-17 to consent to mental health treatment without parental permission if the attending professional believes the youth is mature enough to make the decision or if the youth would present a danger of serious physical or mental harm to self and others without the services. Current parental consent requirements for mental health services create a barrier to treatment that is especially harmful to LGBT youth who may be put at risk of emotional or physical abuse by coming out to their parents prematurely or without support.

2011

SB 48 - The Fair, Accurate, Inclusive and Respectful (FAIR) Education Act

- Amended the education code to require schools to integrate factual information about social movements, current events and history of people with disabilities and LGBT people into existing social studies lessons. It also prevents the State Board of Education from adopting instructional materials that discriminate.

2011

AB 9 – Seth’s Law, Bullying Prevention

- Tightens anti-bullying policies in California schools by ensuring that all schools have clear and consistent policies and by establishing timelines for investigating claims of bullying.

2012 - Pending

- **SB 1172 - Limiting Sexual Orientation Conversation Treatment**
- **AB 1729 – Bullying, Alternative Response**
- **AB 1856 - Providing Safe, Supportive Homes for LGBT Youth**

How Advocates Influence State Government

- Sponsor a bill
- Seek an amendment to a bill
- Advocate for or against a bill
- Follow up after enactment of a bill to assure that appropriate regulations are in place
- Grassroots advocacy including letter writing campaigns and use of media

Legislative Testimony

- Know your audience. What arguments will appeal?
- Do not argue from a moral standpoint alone. Present your recommendations as being reasonable and responsible.
- Deal frankly with fiscal considerations.

Legislative Testimony continued..

