

Subj: re:issue of child sexual abuse and homosexuality
Date: 12/27/2006 12:16:48 PM Eastern Standard Time
From: **Frank J Russo Jr.**
To: **David Kilmnick**
CC: **(Catholic League, Newsday, Cablevision, Channel 12, Suffolk Life, NY Daily News, NY Times, etc.)**

December 27, 2006

Mr. Kilmnick,
Executive Director
LI Gay & Lesbian Youth

RE: study on issue of any relationship between child abuse and sexual orientation

David,

I'm sorry for the delay in responding to your email, as we were visiting some of our kids & grandkids in Virginia.

You and I have very different opinions as to the relationship between child sexual abuse and homosexuality. This came up in our discussion/debate on the Channel 12 News Program "LI Talks", on the subject of "gay marriage", which took place on Nov. 29, 2006. Believing you were a sincere (but mistaken) person interested in knowing and stating factual truths, and knowing I am only interested in stating the truth as well, and considering the significance of the subject matter (whether sexual orientation is correlated to child sexual abuse) I suggested, as we were both leaving the Channel 12 News premises that we co-sign a letter requesting the government (state and/or federal) to fund a study conducted by researchers and academicians acceptable to both sides to resolve this issue once and for all. You told me you would do so. Now you seem to be backing off, claiming "there are a plethora of valid research studies that have explored the issue of child molestation and every study shows there is absolutely no link to being gay or heterosexual."

I have often cited my studies, but I have never heard yours cited. Let me again cite my studies, apparently none of which you are acquainted with, and I ask you to please cite your studies. Assuming you have such studies, and I presume you do, then since there appear to be studies on both sides (and I only assume this if you can cite 4 or 5 such studies on your side), would it not serve society's best interests to determine which findings are correct. I certainly do not want to allege such a connection between homosexuality and child abuse if such does not exist. Are you equally as interested in knowing the truth, or do you fear knowing it? I am beginning to suspect it is the latter. If I am wrong, then you clearly should be willing to join with me and request that we gather experts selected and agreed to by both of us to conduct the appropriate study to put this important question to rest once and for all. The implications of the outcome are critical in terms of the issue of child abuse. Or perhaps you are banking on the "political correctness" of our media to avoid this important issue altogether?

Here are some of my citations, regarding the significant correlation between child abuse and homosexuality, and they are not "from the 50's" as you seem to mistakenly believe::

Re: having been abused and being gay:

The study, "Comparative Data of Childhood and Adolescent Molestation in Heterosexual and Homosexual Persons ", Archives of Sexual Behavior, Vol. 30, No 5, 2001 by Tomeo, Templer, Anderson and Kotler (all educators & psychologists with Ph.D.'s) shows that while 46% of gay men were sexually abused by a male as a child, only 7% of heterosexual males were so abused; for females, 22% of lesbians were sexually abused as a child by a female, vs only 1% of heterosexual females.

This is a recent study by 4 reputable academicians reported on in a reputable journal and the findings were strongly indicative of a high correlation to having been abused as a child and being gay.

Re: the related issue of any correlation between sexual orientation and being a child molester, here are some citations:

(1) "Pedophilia and Heterosexuality vs Homosexuality", Journal of Sex & Marital Therapy", 1984, Vol 10, ppages 193-200---- two studies by Drs Freund and Heasman of the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry in Toronto found 32% and 34% of molesters were gay; of some 457 pedophiles they personally treated, 36% were gay.

(2) Dr Adrian Copeland of the Peters Institute in Philadelphia, a psychiatrist who works with sex offenders, found that 40% of child abusers were gay (Boston Globe, Aug. 8, 1988).

(3) Of nearly 100 child molesters at the Massachusetts Treatment Center for Sexually Dangerous persons, 1/3 were hetero, 1/3 were bisexual and 1/3 were gay. (Dr Raymond Knight, interviewed after speaking at Eastern Psychological Assn in NY (1991) on "Differential preference of personality disorders in rapists & child molesters".

(4) Of 91 molesters interviewed at Canada's Kingston's Sexual Behavior Clinic, 42% were gay. "W.L. Marshall, "Early onset and deviant sexuality in child molesters", Journal of Interpersonal Violence (1991) , Vol. 6, pp. 323-336.

(5) of the recent John Jay College study of the sexual abuse problem in the Catholic Church some 80% were cases of homosexual abuse, not pedophilia, that is abuse of post-pubescent boys, also known as ephebophilia. (I can email you a report of this major study by the John Jay College as recently published in Pastoral & Homiletic Review).

(6) In the study, "Adolescent Sex Offenders--Vermont-1984", by J. Wasserman, pub. in the Journal of the American Medical Assn (1986)-of 161 Vermont adolescent sex offenders, 22% were homosexual.

(7) The Kinsey Institute found 25% of some 565 adult gays admitted to having sex with boys aged 16 and younger. ("Homosexualities: a Study of Diversity Among Men and Women", pub. by Simon & Schuster, authored by Bell & Weinberg.)

David, perhaps some of these studies were done improperly. Perhaps your studies (the citations of which I am requesting from you) were invalid. If we jointly approved academicians and researchers who would then select appropriate professionals to do an authoritative study on this subject, we both would benefit---as would all of society-- from knowing the truth, and whoever is wrong will simply cease making false statements. If you are truly confident in your allegations, what have you to lose? In all honesty, I am quite certain there is a clear and distinct link between homosexuality and child sexual abuse, and this linkage works in both directions---that is, being abused contributes to being gay, and gays are far more likely to abuse children than heterosexuals.

How about it David? For the last time, will you abide by what you told me leaving Channel 12 News, and in the interest of reaching the truth, join me in seeking government funding for research on this important issue of child abuse which affects so many hundreds of thousands of children every year. And, for the last time, please send me your study citations, if you have any, showing no

linkage between child sexual abuse and sexual orientation, just as I have sent you some of my citations.

Regards,

Frank Russo
State Director
American Family Association of New York
Phone #

Frank -

I did receive your previous email but was surprised that you had thought that I agreed to this proposed biased study to begin with. Upon our leaving the News 12 Long Island studios, in which we were talking about marriage equality for same-sex couples, you proposed this idea to me and I told you there is no link between child abuse and one's sexual orientation, and that it was important to move on from these archaic 1950's stereotypes that have no scientific backing whatsoever. There are a plethora of valid research studies that have explored the issue of child molestation and every study shows that there is absolutely no link to this issue regardless of one being gay or heterosexual. There are many groups, such as Megan's Law, that are working on this issue and they are doing a fine job.

Your constant obsession with our lives as Gay Americans perplexes me. There is so much going on in the world today that needs this type of "obsession". Perhaps your energy could be better spent on the high taxes on Long Island we both pay, the lagging economy we both face, or issues of public transportation, traffic and the environment. This would seem to be more productive and healthy instead of spreading hate and discrimination and I would be more than willing to work on these common issues together.

A very Happy Holiday and New Year to you and your family.

David

David Kilmnick, Ph.D., MSW

-----Original Message-----

From: Fjrussojr@cs.com [mailto:Fjrussojr@cs.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2006 3:48 PM
To:
Cc:

Mr David Kilmnick
Exec Dir-LI Gay & Lesbian Youth

David,

Just checking for the third time to make sure you received the draft letter I am proposing we jointly send our legislators for funds to study the question of any linkage between child sexual abuse and homosexuality. You had indicated, David, when we left the Channel 12 News studio back on November 29th, that you would indeed be willing to cosign such a letter requesting funds to study this important question. I believe we both want to be truthful. I can quote you numerous studies supporting my beliefs. While I have never seen your studies, I presume you have some. By doing the studies I am proposing, we can then put this issue to rest once and for all.

I am attaching the draft of the letter below, and please feel free to make any changes you deem appropriate.

Again, the reason for the study is to settle once and for all the question of whether there is a linkage between sexual orientation and child abuse. I have added a little more clarification to the letter in that there are actually two distinct relationships requiring study: the rates of child abuse committed by heterosexuals vs homosexuals and the correlation, if any, between sexual orientation and having been abused as a child.

I am sending a copy of this email to several newspapers et al, for corroborative purposes, as I will likely refer to this proposed joint letter in future public discussions. I am hoping you will adhere to what you said leaving the Channel 12 news studio on 11/29/06 and be willing to co-sign this letter.

Regards,

Frank Russo

AFA-NY State Director

Here is the letter again, with modifications as to the two distinct aspects of any relationship between child abuse and sexual orientation to be studied:

Dear (Senator, Representative, State Senator, Assemblyman):

This letter is being signed by two persons from very different perspectives on the issue of homosexuality. One is David Kilmnick, who heads the Long Island Gay and Lesbian Youth. The other is Frank Russo, who heads the American Family Association of New York. While both of us have very different viewpoints on the issue of homosexuality, we share a common concern in getting the facts correct regarding the important issue of whether or not there is any correlation between child sexual abuse and the homosexual orientation. The existence of any correlation would involve two distinct aspects of such a relationship. One would examine the question of the relative rates of child abuse committed by heterosexuals and homosexuals, and the other would examine the relationship, if any, between sexual orientation and having been abused as a child by someone of the same sex.

Mr. Kilmnick believes studies show there is no such correlation, while Mr. Russo believes studies show there is a clear and distinct correlation. One important aspect of this affects the issue of adoption by homosexuals. There are many other tangential issues which would turn one way or the other depending on what the correct facts are with regard to the existence or non-existence of any correlation between child abuse and homosexuality.

Therefore, in a somewhat unusual and surprising request, the two of us are asking our government legislative representatives to please secure and commit the funds necessary to conduct a legitimate study that would be credible to both sides. This would involve getting qualified academicians and researchers, acceptable to both sides, to conduct the necessary research and study work on this important matter.

Would you be willing to help us secure the necessary funding for this research? Please let us know whether you are willing and able to help on this matter as soon as possible. Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

to be co-signed by David Kilmnick (LIGALY) & Frank Russo (AFA of NY)