



## LEGISLATIVE ALERT

### ATTACK ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND STUDENT SAFETY – OPPOSE [SB1250\(Bunch\)](#) and [HB821 \(Campfield\)](#)

**What SB1250/HB821 do** – SB1250, sponsored by Sen. Dewayne Bunch, and HB821, sponsored by Rep. Stacey Campfield, would prevent teachers, school counselors and other school administrators from providing “any instruction or materials discussing sexual orientation other than heterosexuality.”

SB1250/HB821 places a blanket prohibition on any materials or instruction on "sexual orientation other than heterosexuality," regardless of whether local educators believe that such instruction is necessary to combat bullying or to teach about historical events and figures.

#### **ACLU of Tennessee opposes SB1250/HB821 because:**

- Teachers, school counselors and other school administrators are the most qualified to decide what is the best way to responsibly teach about diversity and other current events affecting students today.
- Anti-gay bullying against both gay and straight students is one of the biggest problems in our public schools. Teachers, school counselors and administrators should not be hamstrung in their efforts to address **all** forms of discrimination and harassment.
- This blanket ban violates the First Amendment prohibition against viewpoint discrimination by favoring speech about "heterosexuality" and banning speech about gay issues regardless of the educational purpose.
- SB1250/HB821 infringes upon academic freedom by arbitrarily suppressing ideas and dictating to educators and students that only "heterosexuality" may be discussed.
- SB1250/HB821 may be used to prohibit students from forming Gay-Straight Alliance clubs and from encouraging tolerance and respect for all students regardless of sexual orientation.

**What you can do:** Contact your state senator and state representative and urge them to vote NO on SB1250/HB821. The easiest way to contact your legislators is to visit <http://www.capitol.tn.gov>, go to “Find My Legislator,” put in your address and click “search.”