

What is the ACLU of Tennessee?

The American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee (ACLU-TN) is a private non-profit, non-partisan membership organization dedicated to protecting and promoting the guarantees of the Bill of Rights. We focus on a range of Constitutional issues, including freedom of speech and expression, privacy, LGBT rights, police brutality, racial justice, discrimination, reproductive freedom, and religious freedom.

ACLU-TN enjoys resources and expertise from the National LGBT/AIDS Project of the ACLU.

How the ACLU-TN Fights for Your Rights

- **Advocacy**
- **Legislative Lobbying**
- **Litigation**
- **Public Education**

ACLU-TN Has Fought for Your Rights for 25 Years

1982: Successfully represented University of TN students forming a LGBT campus organization

1990: Filed friend-of-court brief in successful lawsuit challenging Tennessee's "Homosexual Act Statute" which criminalized private consensual adult sexual behavior only among gay couples

1993: Successfully filed lawsuit challenging denial of parade permit to LGBT group organizing a Pride event in Chattanooga

1997: Successfully spearheaded lobbying campaign to defeat efforts to ban adoption and foster parenting by gay men and lesbians

2000: Initiated state-wide campaign and successfully lobbied to add sexual orientation as a protected class in enhancement penalty statute

2003: Successfully lobbied against efforts to ban civil unions and domestic partnerships

2004: Successfully intervened to ensure that LGBT parents have visitation and custody rights with their children

2005-06: Lobbied and litigated against the "Marriage Protection Act", a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage.

2007: Assisted in forming Support Student Safety coalition to secure non-discrimination policy that includes sexual orientation and gender identity.

2008: Defeated bill that would prohibit any instruction on "sexual orientation other than heterosexuality" in public schools.



The Fight for LGBT Equality



ACLU-TN Lobbies for You

- ACLU-TN lobbied with other special interest groups against an adoption bill that would have prevented unmarried couples from adopting children. The bill was defeated in a House subcommittee in 2008.
- We lobbied against a bill that would have made any instruction on “sexual orientation other than heterosexuality”. The bill failed in committee in 2008.

ACLU-TN Educates For You

- ACLU-TN hosted and moderated a public forum on the adoption bill that would have prevented unmarried couples from adopting children.
- ACLU-TN assisted students in organizing a vigil for Lawrence “Larry” King, a middle school student from Oxnard, CA who was shot at school by a classmate because he was gay and gender non-conforming. His murder is being treated as a hate crime.
- ACLU-TN is working to revive the 2003 campaign to pass a non-discrimination ordinance in Nashville, as well as to secure domestic partnership health care benefits for Metro employees.



ACLU-TN Fights for Your Rights

- When a man in McMinnville, TN found his home vandalized and covered in anti-gay slurs, ACLU-TN made sure it was investigated as a hate crime.
- A student in Jefferson County was prevented from having Day of Silence by being told that he could not go to school that day or for the next two days. ACLU-TN immediately contacted the school district to inform them that they could not censor peaceful protest. The school district apologized.
- Two students were outed to their parents by their principal in Memphis, TN after the principal made a list of all couples in the high school in order to single out gay couples. ACLU-TN is representing the students, as well as their mothers in this pending case.
- The Support Student Safety coalition was formed with the assistance of ACLU-TN to advocate a non-discrimination policy for all Metro schools that would include sexual orientation and gender identity. The coalition has presented to the school board and is waiting for a decision.



Yes! I Want to Join the Fight for LGBT Equality

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Please make a check or money order payable to:

ACLU of Tennessee

P.O. Box 120160

Nashville, TN 37212

I would like for my contribution to go to:

ACLU-TN Foundation (tax-deductible gift for advocacy, litigation and public education)

ACLU-TN (non tax-deductible gift used for lobbying)

