

YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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Senate Bill Number 143

Legislative Action:

Introduced by: Angela Dwyer  
Authored by: Angela Dwyer

House Committee: \_\_\_\_\_  
House: \_\_\_\_\_  
Senate Committee: \_\_\_\_\_  
Senate: \_\_\_\_\_  
Governor: \_\_\_\_\_

Delegation: Helena Capital

Referred to Committee: Senate Education Committee

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1 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "An act to promote "Day of Silence" to encourage gender equality  
2 in the halls of Montana high schools."  
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4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE MONTANA YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE:  
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6 **Section 1: Findings** Four out of five gay, lesbian, trans-sexual or bi-sexual students report verbal, sexual  
7 or physical harassment at school and more than 30% report missing at least one day of school in the past  
8 month of fear for their personal safety.  
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10 **Section 2: Intent** The purpose of this bill is to further gender equality among the students in Montana's  
11 high schools. "Day of Silence" is supported by the GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, and Trans-sexual)  
12 community as a day for students to be silent to recognize the homosexual students who have been  
13 harassed and "silenced" because of their sexuality. The school environment is the ideal place to promote  
14 this for all students should feel that school is a "safe haven," to where they can express themselves  
15 without fear.  
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17 **Section 3: Action**

- 18 (1) In order to promote equality for all genders, "Day of Silence" will be recognized as a school  
19 holiday in all Montana high schools.
- 20 (2) Students will be encouraged to participate and will be allowed to remain silent throughout the  
21 entire day without teacher interruption.
- 22 (3) The State of Montana will create a GLBT Youth in Montana Schools Task Force, made up of  
23 representatives of statewide education organizations and leaders in civil rights, GLBT and  
24 business community working with the Safe Schools Coalition to educate the Teachers and  
25 Administrators to help create safer environment in the schools.
- 26 (4) Teachers and Administrators will be required to take the course on GLBT education.  
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28 **Section 4: Funding** All necessary funding shall come from the general fund.  
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30 **Section 5: Enactment Date** This bill will go into effect by 2009.  
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