



Carol Waymack, MD's statement

Good morning. I am here today as the mother of a Lesbian daughter, as a family physician serving a diverse group of patients, as a Christian and as a taxpayer in the Seattle School District.

I'd like to tell you about my own experience as a parent. Like all parents, I too had a bright, talented, beautiful, and loving daughter--as they say in Lake Wobegone, well above average. Around middle school, however, she seemed to change. I didn't know why. Her grades dropped, and her positive outlook faded. We tried conferences with teachers, all sorts of incentives for better performance at home, even some sessions with a professional counselor. High school was a little better, but as a parent, I knew she was not her best self, that she was struggling with something.

By the end of high school and thru college, she had regained her self-confidence, demonstrated her talents, and developed into a responsible, happy, contributing member of our family and society.

I can't be sure what made the difference. But I can tell you that the beginning of this change for the better was when she told her family and her friends that she was a Lesbian.. As we have come to know her more fully, to meet her friends, to hear her stories, to examine our own beliefs and prejudices, we have become a closer, more committed and loving family.

I am grateful for the high school environment that supported tolerance of her emerging self and the Christian college that defended her rights as a Lesbian woman and for the church family that loves her.

My daughter did not need to be cured, repaired or changed. She did not need to hear someone else's religious values at school. She certainly did not need to hear messages of self-loathing and guilt. She needed a family that could still be her family even when she told the truth about herself. She did need a school environment that promoted respect. Reparative therapy is unproven, unsafe and abusive. As a parent, physician and tax payer, I strongly object to promotion of reparative therapy in the school environment.

Carol Waymack, MD, is a Family Medicine doctor in private practice in North Seattle since 1990. She just completed a two year term as Chief of Staff at Swedish Medical Center/ Ballard Campus and is a recent recipient of the Outstanding Physician Award at Swedish. In her practice, she welcomes a number of Lesbian women, including many Lesbian parents in committed relationships. The mother of an adult Lesbian daughter, Dr. Waymack has been particularly active working for the full inclusion of gay men and Lesbian women in society and in communities of faith. She was instrumental in assisting her own congregation to declare itself welcoming to gay men and Lesbians and to become affiliated with the Pacific Northwest Reconciling Ministries Network. Under the sponsorship of PNW-RMN, she brought to the Northwest in 2004 a three-city Peterson Toscano's production "Doin' Time in the Homo No Mo Halfway House", a one man show documenting Toscano's journey through an ex-gay movement. She has read extensively about the struggles of organized religion and homosexuality and continues to advocate for inclusiveness and respect for diversity.