



The Pennsylvania Student Equality Coalition  
Pittsburgh – Harrisburg – Philadelphia  
610-505-6790  
info@pennsec.org

October 23, 2011

Equality Pennsylvania  
1211 Chestnut Street, Suite 605  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Equality Pennsylvania Board of Directors,

Concerns have been raised to those of us in PSEC that recent actions of Equality Pennsylvania have not been supportive of, and even contradictory, to the efforts of PSEC. We are disturbed by these actions, as both of our organizations have the common goal of advocating for the LGBT community of Pennsylvania.

PSEC recognizes our history with Equality Pennsylvania, and we are grateful for the role the organization has in our foundation. PSEC was originally SNAP, a program of Equality Pennsylvania. As SNAP, we outgrew our role in Equality Pennsylvania and over the course of several months and unanimous votes as the SNAP Board and statewide network, even holding a conference on the issue in State College in January 2011, the leadership decided we could best achieve our goals as an independent organization. During SNAP's transition into PSEC, Equality Pennsylvania expressed its opposition; former Equality Pennsylvania Board President Brian Sims stated he would "work to remove any member of the Equality Pennsylvania Board who would support [PSEC]." Equality Pennsylvania Executive Director Ted Martin expressed his intent to blacklist our leadership within the national LGBT movement. Since then, two leaders of SNAP who previously voted and were leading the effort to form an independent organization left for positions they were offered on Equality Pennsylvania's Board of Directors and members of Equality Pennsylvania have spoken out against PSEC.

Youth leadership has historically been an important part of civil rights movements. In the women's suffrage and black civil rights movements, youth played integral roles in the advancement of those causes. Young people formed the National Woman's Party from the National American Woman Suffrage Association and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference – which helped drive those movements towards victories through complementing the work of other organizations. Youth have been empowered by their ability to run their own organizations and represent the views of young people within their communities. While these youth organizations may not have always agreed with others in their movements, they have ultimately been able to cooperate to achieve their common goals.



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We at PSEC respectfully ask that efforts be made for our organizations to cooperate in the future. PSEC has grown rapidly in the six months, and we have many goals to increase our advocacy in Pennsylvania in the future. We have received support from many other organizations all across Pennsylvania and the nation. With the upmost respect, we ask that you discontinue all operations of “SNAP” now that we have established PSEC. While we feel cooperation is in the best interest for both PSEC and Equality Pennsylvania, we are not afraid to raise awareness of Equality Pennsylvania’s actions to the media or to your funders if we continue to feel undermined by them. A generation of Pennsylvania LGBT youth is fully aware of Equality Pennsylvania’s actions in this situation and as PSEC we hope Equality Pennsylvania will work towards cooperation with Pennsylvania youth. We believe all LGBT organizations should be able to work together to make the case for equality. Thank you for your commitment towards a better Pennsylvania for us all.

Sincerely,

The Pennsylvania Student Equality Coalition Coordinating Committee

PRIDE  
*Arcadia University*

The Gay Straight Alliance  
*Bloomsburg University  
of Pennsylvania*

The Rainbow Alliance  
*Bryn Mawr College*

FLAG&BT  
*Bucknell University*

Spectrum  
*Dickinson College*

Identity  
*Edinboro University of  
Pennsylvania*

Allies  
*Gettysburg College*

SAGA  
*Haverford College*

The Pride Alliance  
*Indiana University  
of Pennsylvania*

OPEN  
*Keystone College*

Allies  
*Kutztown University  
of Pennsylvania*

Freedom Rings  
*Lebanon Valley College*

Gender and Sexuality Alliance  
*Millersville University*

Trigon  
*Penn State – Behrend (Erie)*

The Capital Alliance  
*Penn State – Harrisburg*

The Rainbow Roundtable  
*Penn State – University Park*

The Gay Straight Alliance  
*Scranton Local #1*

SALE  
*Shippensburg University*

The Queer Student Union  
*Temple University*

Pride Club  
*The Art Institute of Pittsburgh*

The Lambda Alliance  
*The University of Pennsylvania*

The Gay Straight Coalition  
*Villanova University*

The Gay Straight Alliance  
*Williamsport Local #3*