



THE PENNSYLVANIA YOUTH CONGRESS

August 2, 2018

Equality Pennsylvania
Equality Pennsylvania Education Fund
Equality Pennsylvania PAC
400 Third Avenue, #107
Kingston, PA 18704

Dear Equality Pennsylvania Board Members,

This letter is to inform you of credible alleged actions of your Interim Executive Director John Dawe.

We have just delivered a letter demanding his resignation to him, related to all his capacities with your organization and affiliations.

We have recently become aware of several confirmed and alleged events which are the cause of grave concern for the safety of individuals in our LGBTQ communities.

- In 2003 in Tioga County, he was charged with 15 third degree felony counts of sexual abuse of children for possession of child pornography, along with eight counts of unlawful use of a computer and three counts of receiving stolen property related to unlawfully accessing and downloading Mansfield University of Pennsylvania database information, ultimately pleading guilty to one count of endangering the welfare of a child and one count of receiving stolen property.
- In 2009, he allegedly shared inappropriate imagery of a sexual nature to a male employee which was reported to Human Resources and he was immediately terminated.
- In 2015, a 22 year-old subordinate male employee has alleged repeated sexual assault.
- In 2015, he allegedly repeatedly sexually assaulted and extorted for sexual acts a 23 year-old local community leader.

There is zero tolerance for this behavior in any community, but especially those already rendered vulnerable through societal oppression. His history of using his political and organizational power in the LGBTQ community to prey upon impressionable individuals is a disgusting abuse of authority and puts the safety of all those under your supposed care at risk.

If he does not immediately resign, we demand you take the action necessary to end his employment. His immediate termination from Equality Pennsylvania is non-negotiable.



THE PENNSYLVANIA YOUTH CONGRESS

We are attaching the demand letter that has been delivered to Mr. Dawe for our demands for him. We have detailed statements from these two individuals who have come forward with their experiences. They are graphic and synopses will be shared with the media.

For Equality Pennsylvania, we urge you to take immediate action to protect all of your assets, contact databases, historical records, and property. You have in your possession contact information for thousands of Pennsylvanians that has been built over decades, records of state LGBTQ movement work for over 20 years, and a mantle of general statewide LGBTQ advocacy. There is great concern that without swift action, your property may be copied, modified, or destroyed, and reputation forever diminished. That would be a massive tragedy for statewide LGBTQ work. We strongly recommend you immediately take possession of all Equality Pennsylvania property in Mr. Dawe's control. As he is the sole executive employee, if you authorize the Pennsylvania Youth Congress to hold materials or passwords for you while we are delivering the letter this morning, we are able to safely and securely do so.

For Equality Pennsylvania, we demand you conduct a full investigation of any predatory behavior he may have engaged with while in his leadership roles with your organization.

For Equality Pennsylvania, we demand a full press statement being accountable to his harm and an apology to the community and his victims. We will not accept a quiet resignation.

For Equality Pennsylvania, we demand a full vetting of current members and future members for your Boards of Directors to ensure no individuals with a history of sexual predation are allowed to hold positions of power in your leadership team.

If his resignation is not promptly tendered, or he is not terminated from his position, we will promptly hold a press conference on these allegations.

Equality Pennsylvania has been entrusted by many to be a strong organization to help vulnerable LGBTQ people in our commonwealth. Instead, your executive leadership has a history of confirmed and alleged predatory sexual harm. We call on your leadership as Boards of Directors to ensure he is no longer in a role to harm individuals, there is justice for those he has hurt, and that safeguards are in place to ensure this does not happen in the future.

Signed,

The Pennsylvania Youth Congress Foundation Board of Directors