



Advocacy Update

Sent July 18, 2012

Support the Student Non-Discrimination Act

Like all students, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) students deserve a safe place to learn. Yet a steady stream of reports of LGBT youth being bullied reminds us that school is often not a safe haven; nearly one in five hate crimes takes place on school grounds. Students can be cruel and, sadly, school faculty and administrators are not always equipped to help students who are suffering LGBT discrimination.

WRJ policies have addressed the need for education on these issues and urged efforts to end bullying and help the victims. WRJ's 2001 Resolution "[Complete Health- Mental and Physical](#)," highlighted bullying as a serious mental health and social policy issue. Urge your Member of Congress to join us in these efforts by supporting the [Student Non-Discrimination Act \(SNDA\)](#) (H.R.998/S.555), which would prohibit schools from discriminating against LGBT students as well as prevent schools from ignoring bullying and harassment.

Action Alert: Join the Fight to Help End Childhood Obesity

WRJ and Faith United to End Childhood Obesity have recently partnered with the First Lady's Let's Move! team to try to save children from obesity-caused illness and disease. More information on this joint effort is available on the website of the [Campaign for Healthy Kids](#). The first goal of this campaign is to build a coalition of faith-based organizations to aid in this effort. You can help by signing on at the [Let's Move! Faith and Communities website](#) by September 30th and entering "Faith United to End Childhood Obesity" in the comment section.

Jewish Energy Covenant Campaign: 14% by 2014

Earlier this year, WRJ joined the [Jewish Energy Covenant Campaign](#) coordinated by [The Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life \(COEJL\)](#). By joining this coalition we committed to reducing our collective energy use by 14% by 2014, which is the next Sabbatical year in the Jewish calendar. Susan Paykin, the sustainability liaison for the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, explained this initiative in a [blog](#) highlighting the RAC's efforts, including her use of a [carbon calculator](#) to measure the RAC's energy baseline. Consider calculating your own personal carbon footprint, or that of your sisterhood or congregation. Help us meet this challenge by 2014!