

Bob Sullivan
P.O. Box 43
Hastings, NE 68901
402-469-5149
Bobsullivan402@gmail.com

November 25, 2014

Rev. Timothy R. Lannon, S.J.
Creighton University President
2500 California Plaza
Omaha, NE 68178

Dear Rev. Lannon:

While I am deeply disappointed in your recent decision to extend healthcare benefits to same-sex partners of Creighton employees who have marriage certificates from other states, I'm not surprised. You have simply followed the trend of a lot of other Catholic universities in the United States. Schools such as Gonzaga, Georgetown, Seattle University and others, have all allowed their Catholic faith lapse and fade away. Following seems to be a common trait in Jesuit schools. I believe you should follow Christ instead of the relativistic culture. It is tough being a Catholic in today's world, but poor decisions like yours only make it more difficult to battle the world's rejection of Jesus Christ.

You stated that your decision reflects a commitment to your colleagues. The public will only see that another Catholic institution values the world's opinion and donor's money, above the commitment to Jesus Christ.

You also stated that your decision reflects an ongoing commitment to health and wellness. I disagree. You are doing just the opposite with regard to your colleagues who live an active homosexual lifestyle. By providing them with benefits, you are supporting their lifestyle choices. And because they are engaging in the homosexual lifestyle, they happen to have some significant health risks that healthcare cannot help prevent. I recently did a little of my own research on the health risks we see in the LGBT lifestyle:

1. General health:

- a. Gays and lesbians were more likely to smoke and binge drink compared to heterosexuals. (http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_147319.html accessed 8-28-13)
- b. More than one-third of lesbians and 40% of bisexual women were obese compared to 28 percent of straight women.
(http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_147319.html accessed 8-28-13)
- c. There is very little data on the general health of lesbians.
(<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK45103/> accessed 8-29-14)
- d. The annual diagnosis rate of HIV has climbed among young gay and bisexual males.
(http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_147412.html accessed 8-28-14)

- e. Male homosexuals are disproportionately represented in new hepatitis diagnoses each year.
 - i. About 3% of Americans are homosexual, but homosexual males represent 10 % of new Hepatitis A and 20% of all new Hepatitis B.
(<http://www.cdc.gov/msmhealth/viral-hepatitis.htm> accessed 8-29-14)

2. Cancer:

- a. Men who have sex with men (MSM's) are 20 (CDC says 17) times more likely to be diagnosed with rectal cancer than the general population of males. (http://www.cancer-network.org/cancer_information/gay_men_and_cancer/anal_cancer_hiv_and_gay_men.php acc 8-28-14)
- b. The American Cancer Society said the LGBT population may be more at risk for lung cancer because they tend to use tobacco more frequently than the general population.
- c. The American Cancer Society said lesbians have a "dense cluster of risk factors significantly raising their risk" of breast cancer.
- d. HPV, which is more prevalent in the LGBT population, is a significant cause of oral cancers that attack the base of the tongue and the tonsils but the medical screening is not up to date on oral cancer, so the facts and precautions are currently unknown (<http://bodymindsoul.org/2011/09/hpv-and-oral-cancer/> accessed 8-29-14)

3. STD's:

- a. 75% of all sexually active adults contract some form of HPV in their lifetime. (http://www.cancer-network.org/cancer_information/gay_men_and_cancer/anal_cancer_hiv_and_gay_men.php acc 8-28-14)
 - i. Some HPV strains increase the likelihood of cervical cancer in women and rectal cancer in men.
 - ii. 95% of HIV positive males also have HPV.
 - iii. Condoms do not provide a significant defense against contracting HPV.
- b. Although MSM accounts for only 3% of the population, they account for 63% of new primary and secondary syphilis cases in the U.S. (<http://www.cdc.gov/msmhealth/STD.htm> accessed 8-29-14)
- c. According to the CDC, there are about 50,000 new cases of HIV diagnosed each year. But homosexual males are disproportionately represented in shocking numbers.
 - i. There was a 21% increase in new HIV cases for 13-29yr olds from 2006-2009.
 - 1. In young gay and bisexual men, the increase was 34% in this timeframe.
 - a. Individuals with HPV--and especially with more than one type of HPV--are at greater risk of contracting HIV.
(<http://www.edgesanfrancisco.com/index.php?ch=news&sc=&sc3=&id=103868&pf=1> accessed 8-29-14)
 - 2. In 2006, MSM accounted for nearly half of the 1 million people living with HIV in the U.S. and accounted for more than ½ of new infections.
- d. The San Francisco City Clinic has a chart that explains the risks of oral sex & contracting STD's. It explains that the chance of contracting herpes is high and that there is no cure. It goes on to estimate that 30-50% of HIV negative males have genital herpes and that up to 80% of HIV positive males have genital herpes.
 - i. The only STD that gets a rating of "low" for chances of contraction is intestinal parasites.

- ii. It estimates that about 25% of the gay male population of San Francisco is HIV positive and that some of these men don't know they are infected.
 - 1. According to the Williams Institute, there are approximately 57,000 gay men living in San Francisco. ("How Many People are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender?". [Williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu](http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu). accessed 8-29-14).
 - a. This means that over there are more than 14,000 HIV infected men living in San Francisco and some portion of them don't know they are infected.
- 4. Drug and Alcohol issues:
 - a. The CDC website (as of 8-29-14) states that the LGBT population is more likely to use alcohol and drugs, have higher rates of substance abuse, is less likely to abstain from alcohol and drug use and is more likely to continue heavy alcohol use later in life, than the general population.
- 5. Psychological:
 - a. Comparisons of environments with broad acceptance of homosexual behavior to environments intolerant of homosexual behavior shows the same elevated levels of mental illness in the LGBT populations. (<http://www.narth.com/docs/whitehead.html>)
 - i. Drs. Paul and Kirk Cameron;
 - ii. Dr. Richard Fitzgibbons;
 - iii. Dr. Neil Whitehead.
 - b. Homosexuals are at higher risk of mental disorder, suicidal ideation, substance misuse and self-harm than heterosexual people. - Dr. Apu Chakraborty of University College London.
 - i. Chakraborty suspects discrimination may be a cause, but says, to study the true impact of sexuality-based discrimination on mental health problems, a longer-term approach is needed.
 - c. The National Alliance on Mental Illness reports that the LGBT population is 2.5 times more likely than the general population, to be diagnosed with a mental disorder.
 - d. Approximately 25% of the 18 million Americans with a serious mental illness (requiring hospitalization or in-patient care), are from the LGBT population. (Laumann, E.O., Gagnon, J.H., Michael, R.T., & Michaels, S. (1994). *The social organization of sexuality: Sexual practices in the United States*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.)
 - i. This tells us that the LGBT population is highly overrepresented due to the fact that less than 4% of the U.S. population is lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered.
 - e. Men with lifetime histories of same-sex sexual partners may well be at somewhat higher risk for a lifetime diagnosis of major affective disorder than exclusively heterosexually experienced men. Cochran & Mays, *Am J Public Health*. 2000 April; 90(4): 573-578
 - f. Gay men are much more likely to suffer from bulimia or anorexia nervosa.
- 6. Violence & abuse:
 - a. There is a higher rate of abuse in MSM relationships.

- i. One study (J Urban Health. Sep 2007; 84(5): 681-690) found that 32.4% of men had experienced abuse in their intimate homosexual relationship, compared to 20% in marriages of one man and one woman (http://www.aamft.org/iMIS15/AAMFT/Content/Consumer_Updates/Domestic_Violence.aspx accessed 8-29-14).
- b. The U.S. Dept. of Justice found that 23% of males who said they had lived with a same-sex intimate partner reported being victimized by that partner whereas only 7.4% of heterosexual men reported being victimized by their wife/girlfriend.
 - i. Lesbians reported 39.2% victimization by their partner as opposed to 21.7% of heterosexual females. (Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence," U.S. Department of Justice: Office of Justice Programs (July, 2000): 30.)

I recently attended the Nebraska Bar Association's Legal Diversity Summit held at Creighton. I was disturbed by the fact that the Bar was holding its very first LGBT Summit on the grounds of a Catholic University. I understand that you can't always know what group is promoting what agenda when they rent your conference rooms. Also, there was the possibility that the speakers were going to give accurate and honest information about the dangers of the homosexual lifestyle.

However, as I suspected, the speakers simply told stories about how Nebraskans are highly bigoted and how the LGBT movement is really the new civil rights movement. I don't think they can truly claim the civil rights label until the American Psychological Association and the medical experts can honestly say they have found a genetic cause for homosexuality. The experts currently agree that it would be inaccurate to claim that there is a genetic cause for same-sex attraction. Inconvenient problems like the absence of facts and proof did not stop the experts from announcing that same-sex attraction would no longer be considered a mental illness though, so I presume we are not far from a blanket statement that concludes that people who are SSA were just, "born this way". As soon as the experts make that statement, the press will run with it and nobody will ever again, be expected to substantiate the claim. But back to my attendance at the LGBT summit held at Creighton a few months ago.

During the Bar Association summit, UNL professor Richard Weiner explained that most, if not all, of the health risks experienced by members of the LGBT community, were due to discrimination, stigma, intolerance, rejection, etc... He went on to reference studies that suggest the health of members of the LGBT community improved in states where LGBT-friendly legislation had been passed. In essence, he was telling all the lawyers, lawmakers and judges that homosexuals are living shorter lives and experiencing more health problems because they are not accepted and equal. After he opened the room up for questions, I asked him if the studies showed that health of the LGBT community equaled that of the general population in the states who had LGBT-friendly laws on the books (i.e. the most tolerant states). Mr. Weiner tried to dodge the question, but I explained it to him a second time: "Does the passage of laws that protect homosexual behavior really make them as healthy as the rest of us?" Mr. Weiner stated that he didn't know the answer to my question. In my opinion, his lack of knowledge undermines everything he was promoting that day. To make matters even worse, I knew of studies that

contradicted Mr. Weiner's conclusion. I'm confident he knew of them too. However he did not offer them to us that day.

You should also be aware of another topic during that seminar. A speaker spent about an hour praising *Roe v. Wade* and decrying the recent Hobby Lobby decision in a talk called "Birth Control and Beyond: An Overview of Sex-Based Discrimination and the Law". She did not like my questions at the end of her talk and quickly announced that it was time to take a break before the last talk of the day.

Because you live and work among intellectuals and academia and because you are surrounded by people (such as Michael G. Lawler and Todd Salzman) who have a more progressive ideology than the rest of Nebraska, the rest of the country and certainly the Church herself, you probably don't come across information, facts and statistics like those I have provided.

If you have taken the time to read this far, you are probably annoyed, if not angered. If this is the case, it is partly due to the fact that the majority of professors and students you know, have already led you to conclude that the LGBT advocates are on the right side of history or that the best way to reach people is to rethink all of the social justice teachings that your colleagues feel are out of fashion. When you have already formed your opinion on issues like these, it is offensive to be presented with facts and information that conflict with your conclusions.

Additionally, progressives are skilled at avoiding discussions about the details behind their ideology. Therefore, even if you tried to talk to them about the health risks of the homosexual lifestyle, you would find that they would only know enough to support their claims. Just like professor Weiner, they will act as if no other facts exist. If they are really informed, they will tell you why some of the studies (those conducted by conservative organizations) lack all credibility, while others (those conducted by progressives and utilized by the Human Rights Campaign) are amazing fonts of truth, credibility and accuracy.

I believe there are better ways to reach out to the LGBT community than enabling their efforts to destroy themselves. The better way is to stand up for the truth and to be a courageous defender of the Gospel, the human person, the family and the Church that Jesus Christ built. When a person or an organization weakens the truth, misconstrues the Gospel and wounds the Church, they hurt the very people they claim to love.

Love is the root of this entire issue. Our culture craves love, but we tend to settle for anything that provides us with comfort, convenience, entertainment, pleasure, etc... Unfortunately, these are no more than counterfeits and imposters. These cheapened or incomplete versions satisfy our immediate cravings, but they do not honor the fact that we are made in the image and likeness of God. We were made for authentic love which often requires sacrifice and suffering. It is like a person who starts a regular diet of junk food. The junk food provides a sugar rush that gives temporary pleasure and satisfaction. As a result, they lose their taste for the vegetables, fruits, meats, etc..., for which their body was designed. Even if they take a bite of the healthy food, they are so conditioned to crave junk food that the healthy food often tastes vile to them.

Your decision helps reinforce the culture's craving for inauthentic love, for repentance-free salvation and the assumption that the majority of Americans celebrate the homosexual lifestyle. Hollywood certainly celebrates the homosexual lifestyle. So does the mainstream media, politicians and academia. But every time the issue of same-sex marriage was put to the vote of the people, the majority of those voting sided with traditional marriage. Each time a Catholic institution rejects the teaching of the Church, people begin to lose their faith in the wisdom of the Church. The message you are sending is that the Church has been wrong about homosexual behavior since 33 A.D.

How does this impact me? First, I have children who deserve an education that is based in truth. Secondly, I talk to people about Catholicism fairly regularly. When I stand up for truth and distinguish between the human person and the decisions and behaviors of some people, a lot of people are confused and progressives try to shout me down. It does not stop me from standing for the truth in a very public and vocal way, but your decision just gives progressives a louder and a seemingly more credible voice. Progressives and the secular media have had a heyday taking Pope Francis' comments out of context on the issue of homosexuality. It doesn't take much to give them a head of steam and they are experts at ignoring information that conflicts with the way they want the world to work. The difference between Pope Francis' statement and your decision is that the progressives don't even have to take your decision out of context to lure people away from Christ.

You said you tried to do what Jesus would do in this situation, but I think you have Christ completely wrong on this one. Christ would have delivered a message of repentance, not a pat on the back and a "thumbs up". John 8:1-10 is the most quoted passage by today's progressives, but John 8:11, is the most overlooked. Sometimes I wonder if the world is full of bibles that are actually missing the entire last sentence of John 8:11.

But I'm not simply writing to complain or to try to persuade you. I'd actually like to see something impressive come from this. I'd like to see Creighton take a strong, visible and courageous leadership role in academia. Creighton needs to embrace of the Gospel message of Jesus Christ, teach the truth of traditional marriage and the truths of life and the dignity of the human person, instead of following the culture and all the other Jesuit schools who have jumped on the relativistic bandwagon. You probably fear that you would lose faculty members, students and financial supporters if you stopped following the relativistic culture. But I believe such a move would make Creighton stronger. It would put Creighton in a very rare category (probably as the sole member) as a Jesuit university who stands behind the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Sincerely,



Bob Sullivan

J.D. Creighton Law 1995