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Breaking: Supreme Court to Review DOMA and Prop 8

Dec. 7, 2012 ? Jill

The Supreme Court has decided to grant review in *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, the case deciding the fate of California?s Proposition 8, the state constitutional amendment that denies loving, committed same-sex couples the right to marry. Proposition 8 was declared unconstitutional by District Judge Vaughn Walker in 2010, a decision subsequently upheld by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Supporters of marriage equality, led by the American Federation for Equal Rights (AFER), will submit arguments to the Court by April, with a decision from the Court on the constitutionality of Proposition 8 expected by June 2013. GSA Network has responded -- you can check out the full release here [1].

But what does it mean for youth? Anthony Barros, a GSA Network youth activist on Statewide Advocacy Council (pictured right) and senior at Antelope Valley High School, shares what the news means to him:

"I remember the night of the 2008 Election when I looked at the bottom of the news feed and saw that Proposition 8 passed. My mom and dad commented on how happy they were that it passed, and I, being in the closet, was silently hurt and in shock. At school, all of my teachers talked about it, voicing their support of the proposition. It was as if everything changed for me. I was amidst a society that actually voted to classify me as a second-class citizen. The passage of Prop 8 made me feel wrong, immoral, and unsafe. It was a message from my state that I was not welcome or free to be who I was.

"Now it is 4 years later, and after coming out to my parents, friends, and community, I have educated many on what it really means to be gay. My mom still tells me in tears about how much of a mistake she made voting Yes on Proposition 8. She regrets it every day of her life and longs for its repeal. Now as we both watch on the news court after court rule Prop 8 unconstitutional, we have a new hope that the Supreme Court next year will stand up for everyone and strike Prop 8 down in California. The Supreme Court's decision can change my life forever."

What are your thoughts on the decision? How has the conversation around Prop 8 impacted you, your school, and your involvement with activism?

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[1] http://www.gsanetwork.org/news/gsa-network-responds-supreme-courts-decision-review-prop-8/120712