

**February 23, 2007**

**STATEMENT OF THE TOWN OF LEXINGTON  
AND THE LEXINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

*Parker, et al., v. Hurley, et. al.*  
**United States District Court of Massachusetts,  
C.A. No. 06-10751-MLW**

The Town of Lexington, its School Committee and its public School officials, named in this lawsuit, are pleased that the Court has vindicated their policies and conduct in promoting respect for and acceptance of the diversity of students who attend the public schools and the different families that they come from, including families headed by gay and lesbian parents. They are relieved that they can pursue these policies without accusations about violating the civil rights of students or parents, and without incurring civil liability.

The court has eloquently noted that “diversity is a hallmark of our nation” and that this diversity increasingly includes publicly acknowledged differences in sexual orientation. The court found that the Lexington School’s diversity policies help eradicate the effects of past discrimination and reduce the risk of future discrimination. Moreover, these policies help preserve a climate of welcome, safety and respect for students from all kinds of families and prepare all students for citizenship in a diverse society. Lexington has never meant any disrespect for the religious views of the plaintiffs in this case. The court has made clear, however, that the plaintiffs’ sincere religious beliefs and right to raise their children accordingly does not give them the right under the Constitution to control or censor teachings and materials in the public schools.