

Kendrick on LGBT Rights



There is no candidate in the Florida Senate race that has a track record in support of LGBT civil rights as clear and consistent as Kendrick Meek. Kendrick has always been a strong defender of the rights of LGBT Americans, and he has opposed efforts to pass a Constitutional Amendment prohibiting same-sex marriage.

Kendrick supports gays serving openly in the military and is the only candidate that has supported the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell since day one. He also supports hate crime prevention, employment nondiscrimination, and partner benefits. There is no reason why any American should be denied hospital visits or inheritance rights or tax benefits based on their sexual orientation.

Florida's adoption ban for LGBT citizens is wrong and our state is behind the rest of the country. The policy blatantly discriminates against a segment of our state's citizens. At this moment, thousands of children in our state are waiting to be adopted and placed in loving and safe homes. The theory that LGBT parents cannot responsibly raise a child is baseless. Kendrick believes that potential adoptive parents should be evaluated on their capacity to love and raise a child, not on their sexual orientation.

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) has endorsed Kendrick. The HRC represents a grassroots force of more than 700,000 members and supporters nationwide, and is the largest national gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender civil rights organization in the country. Kendrick also has the endorsement of the Stonewall Democrats. In 2007, Kendrick received an award from the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund for his "courageous leadership on behalf of equality for all Americans," and in February he joined leaders of the Florida GLBT Democratic Caucus at their Winter Conference.

In 2008, Kendrick was an active supporter of the Say No to Amendment 2 Initiative (the Florida Red to Blue Campaign). This was an effort to fight a proposed amendment to the Constitution of Florida that defined marriage as between only one man and one woman and banned the creation of similar unions, such as civil unions.