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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

pflag, people, gay, parents, children, lesbian, houston, group, talking, sexual orientation, washington, understand, called, meeting, daughter, listening, lobby, support, bus, friends

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00:00

have as many visitors waving at us from the parking lot.



00:03

Amazing, isn't it? Yeah. Two pieces of music old and new kind of that was that last one was Jean and new group out of England. from their album drawn to the deep end. It's called fighting fit. Before that we had an old timer, Tom Robinson with a new song called disrespect from his album, having it both ways. You're listening to it on after hours,



00:32

after hours, continuing tradition, live from Montrose under the full moon. That's what it is. It's a full moon that is that the reason comes down here and that thing on his like thing, and people come waving at us and I know.



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Anyway, you're listening to it on KPFT Houston, and ke O 's College Station, Jamie Carper and Jewel gray.



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That's right. And you know, we were talking earlier about this new group, and I wanted to talk about that. And you scary, you brought this up a couple of



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weeks ago, very group, I read about it in the advocate. And I just want everyone to know about it in case you know, for those folks, you don't get the advocate because I haven't seen it anywhere else.



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And I and I did some huntin and there's a couple places that it's listed on the net on the on the worldwide web. But it's very minimal. And they only say the nice thing, because you know, they're the ones writing it. Sure. And I didn't find anybody talking about it that were objective about it. Only the people who were part of it, were writing stuff so they were just saying the pretty things. And they were saying things like you know, Lord love the sinner but you know not love the sin and this thing, right? And we don't care what you do, as long as you don't do it. We don't care what you are as long as you don't do it this



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this group is called P Fox, parents and friends of ex gays and they're trying to is by by no coincidence. That's right, that they're trying to get the good reputation of the PFLAG people



02:09

that's right there. They're playing off that and I think that that's what's scary is almost any of the rest of it.



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This is a deeply country's people deeply, deeply homophobic group.



02:19

And you know, the other part that scares me you know, I'm, I'm a rough read conspiracy person. Everything is Ralph read somewhere, you know, I'm just here this little twerp is out there, spreading the money trying to, you know, kill all gay people or put us on an island somewhere I convinced this guy's especially since he stepped down out of the limelight now and now. And it really got Yeah, she got to watch him before he was up there. And he had a lot of people kind of, you know, refereed watch going on. But now he's down. And he's doing consulting. And I just expect him to be like the Gordon Liddy have right now. But you know, What scares me is that this is a group formed by her church called the transformation Christian ministry, eight years ago in Washington, DC. And it's just kind of trickled together until it's to this point now, they didn't call it I don't think they call it P Fox back then. Call it something else. But it was like in competition with one other group. I can't think of that other group, the ex gay group, Exodus, Exodus. That's it. Yes. They were kind of trying to form themselves after an exodus group. And it became what they're doing. Now, of course,



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the Exodus group, this is the group of people the biggest laugh group of people who think that

they're gonna find religion, and it's going to help them not be gay anymore. And the big scandal was that high ranking officials



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flew to a conference right before they got there,



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and discovered that they were in love with each other and announced it at an exodus meeting, to the chagrin of everyone there. But these are kinds of groups that that say, love the sinner Hate the sin. And that's on the surface, which they really say, yeah, what they what they mean is, Will will, will tolerate you, but don't you dare practice? That's right. Don't have sex, don't have sex. Don't even think about Yeah, you're okay. If you don't have sex. If you have sex, then then that's your out. Let's all right. Plus, the other part about it with this P Fox group is that they seem to want to push a lot of guilt onto the parent



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parents, which is very sad, you know, sitting there at that PFLAG meeting, listening to those people be proud of their children and friends. And to think that there are groups out there trying to make and what they do is they specifically target the parents as faulting as being at fault for their children's orientation. And so the parents are walking around with this immense guilt forced their children this group, and it says here that it says here that not all the people that go into this group. While not all p Fox members have succeeded in changing their children, they can perhaps find inspiration in a national founder and executive director and ex gay who himself says, oh, you know, what is this this is some nut who couldn't make money doing anything else and said, Oh, I can just be ex gay and, and start me a little group here and be important.



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What we're talking about here is repression, right? Anyone cannot have sex. Right? Any you know, and the physicality of sex does not mean your orientation tour, I long ago discovered that I was physically able to have sex with a woman,



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and I'm physically able to have sex with a man,



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I just don't want to meet a need. I mean, there's no, there's no desire, there's no lust. I mean, that is not where I find my soulmate.



05:52

That's right. That's not where it's it. To me, being gay is less about sex than it is about what I am inside and my attitudes and my belief structure and my mores and my moral code. My you know, it's just, it's an attitude, what used to have a shirt that said that being gay is not about sex, it's an ad and it's, I can't remember what it is, but it's an attitude. Sure, it's about who you are in inside, not about what you do with your body. And



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when you repress yourself, boy, bad things can happen to you psychologically,



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and not only psychologically to physically to you know, you know, a lot of people have, you know, physical problems because they tried to repress things, not necessarily this but you know, any kind of right now, when you're not being you can cause psychological and physical pain, whether it's gay, lesbian, whether it's bisexual, whether it's transgendered, whatever, and, you know, rehearsing yourself repression, it can often lead to cases, like we were talking about earlier, you bad just explode and, and, you know, go out and punish other people, because they were unable to be who they, you know, truly were inside. And



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that's the scary part. Because I think of these people as just little mini tornadoes or hurricanes, you know, just going on in these these people's heads. And, you know, it's going to explode wonderfully



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after sorry for people like that, trying to please a parent who's dragged them down here, or trying to please the rest of the world that, you know, has condemned their, you know, orientation, and trying to please everybody except themselves. And then they wake up one day, you know, inches from being dead and realize that they've blown their entire life because they've been trying to please other people.



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And what about this, the other aspect of blaming the parents, like, you know, that the overly strong mother, the absent father, for a gay man, and just the opposite for a lesbian? And I mean, that's, that's been



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parents are no more responsible for who I am. My mother has got, how many other children other than me, and all of them are straight. Now? How does that happen? Exactly. And then I've met, we get waved at there's that rainbow. That's rainbow. Yes. And you know that, when you go into families like that, where you have, you know, multiple children and one child was gay, how does that, you know, how do you know, it can't be the parents fault, it's something inside and that you're born with or that you are develops in you as a child. And it I'm not convinced entirely that it's something that can be controlled externally at all, I don't think I think it's a gene. I think it's something you're born with. And, you know, just as much as your eyes are blue, and you're, you know, you're the kind of features you have tall, skinny, you know, those things are gene things, and I think that another one is that, that you're gay? Yes, that's it. But we do want to talk about this group a little bit, because one of the things that scared me about this was the Christian involvement. Yes, not that I'm anti Christian. Just add these Christians.



08:59

We've got some MCC are people listening



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in to That's right. It's not a matter of anti Christian. No, no, no, we're just



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Christians. Christianity is very important to many aspects of the game lesbian community,



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and I rarely identify these people is Christian any



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Oh, absolutely. No, no, they do. They're about as Christian is that that group that was protesting at the Pride



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Parade? Oh, yeah. Yeah, those were the same people that was at the we're at the rally in Austin standing at the steps of the Capitol down there protesting as we ended there, as we ended our march on the steps of the Capitol, remember those guys? Yeah, down there, that same people? They just traveled around protesting. But another thing was that that they are expecting this P Fox group is expecting to get \$100,000 grant from another Christian organization and you know that kind of scary that. Yes, they can be funded so greatly by these Religious

organizations, because that's where people tend to get their legitimacy is from how much money they have. Yeah, people tend to say, well, you know, they're, they're a big group because they have all this money, they must be right. And that's they are right, way, way, way. Right. And, you know, we wanted to not correct briefly because there's very little information about this. You know, the article in the, in the app kit just basically skims over these things that we just talked about. And they talk a little about P flag, and dug up church and his parents yawn and Susan, and we're both at the PFLAG meeting.



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In fact, Doug and his dad, Don, were were guests here just a few months ago.



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Doug, did you know he moved to Austin. I just found out I just found out to move to Austin. I we were talking about the website, that PFLAG website, and I asked Kyle, who is very involved with Yeah,



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he's like the PR man, Kyle's down, and it's the out, outsmart. He wrote a fantastic letter. Where does he publish in that in the PFLAG newsletter.



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And he was we were talking about the website. And I told him that I had difficult to get into it, who was managing and he said he didn't know because Doug had moved to Austin. And I said he moved to Austin, because he used to do it. And I, you know, wanted to kind of get website dresses, so I could give them out tonight. But he was not he was unsure about who was doing the managing and Oh. But if you're interested in finding a website, about PFLAG, just go to a search engine. And those of you who understand what I'm talking about will know what I'm talking about, go to your search engine and just plug in PFLAG. And it will pop up with national and local organizations and dig through. They have a lot of information nationally, and a lot of information on localities, Austin, San Diego, San Francisco, Houston, New York, just about everywhere, I found a PFLAG location. From what I understand there were 500 organised 500 groups around the world. And that PFLAG is sending this copy of this tape to every single one someone gave them trying to think of the organization that gave them a grant so they could send a copy of this tape to every one of them. We're gonna play. Yep, let's take. And I went to this meeting to see if we could get somebody to come down. But you know, the, you know, as much as people are very positive and supportive. After hours, it is rather late



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it is. And I understand that I was I was thrilled to have Doug and his father. On that time, it was



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just hard to get some people in here. I wanted to apologize. I thought about this all weekend, I want to apologize, because one of the things we like to do is get people down here, but lately, it just seems like you know, very tough midnight, one o'clock is kind of late for most people. And if they're not home in bed, then they're out partying, and they don't want to give up either one. And you know, so I did go down and talk to these people who,



13:04

yeah, he's amazing 150.



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At least it was really well attended. I was really impressed. They had a speaker, I can't remember I had to leave early. And I was not aware of that. They broke up into smaller groups after the meeting, the large meeting, and then they discussed or shared or planned things out in smaller groups, and which was is a great way to run a meeting. Anyway, we've just wanted to kind of highlight the stuff about P. Fox if you're interested.



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The other thing that's scary on there is is there. One of their main objectives right now is to get their ideals and ideas into



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goals. Cool. Yeah. And that makes sure PFLAG doesn't get into Yes, that's that way. Yeah, they want to make sure PFLAG doesn't get in school. They're fighting that very big. While they're also trying to get themselves into school shooting their homophobic ideas. Right. And they're very big on that. Yes, I



14:02

thought that was very, very scary. Whenever you see an article on P Fox, read it and and think about what you've heard tonight.



14:10

And you know what I realized sitting in this meeting, which I felt very welcome at, I mean, that people came up and spoke to me and no one you know, a lot of people didn't know, a few people didn't know who I was. A lot of people didn't know who I was, and still came and spoke to me and visited and asked me if I was a member of this was the first time and I got to talk to

a lot of people. There were a lot of people that I recognize from around the community, big community leaders, Don Sinclair was there. I don't know about you know, the Vietnam, the confidentiality, then people at the meeting, so I want to be careful, but I wouldn't know. And I know that Susan and Dawn up church wouldn't mind they, you know, they've been here. Yeah, they've been well, Susan hasn't. And so you know, but there were a lot of community names Kyle, I know he wouldn't mind that's why I mentioned him. You know, A lot of big names in our community were there and people that I've seen doing smaller things with a lot less recognition involved in other things other than PFLAG. So that was what I liked was seeing people who were involved in other things who were also part of PFLAG are actually also doing other things along with PFLAG. But it was a it was a good meeting. And I, you know, frankly, I'll go again, it was that good economy. I'll go again. And so we got this tape. This tape is actually a videotape that was put together locally, by a group. And if I don't have the tape, I forgot who it was, does it say on there who was not really together? No, it sure doesn't. It's called claiming America's Promise. And it was locally put together. It was instigated after an event occurred, where a bunch about 30 people from PFLAG got on a bus took a three day trip across the country to Washington to lobby their representatives to do this into you know, to support this in this court and, and kind of what their journey was to them kind of some of the information it's like, and it's like, you're sitting down talking to a lot of these parents, right. And there's some voiceover so we want to you know, the reason I'm saying this, because it is a video, and it was at some time during here, you may be able to pick up that it's a video, it wasn't really meant to be an audio tape, but it does sound great plays very well,



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actually, you said that they had played this to some blind folks,



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for a blind, gay group. I'm not really sure who it was one of the women there, who I also know would mind her name, Gail Ritchie, would mind her name. She's a very outspoken lady said that she had recently played it for a blind gay group who came to town for something I thought she said it was lesbians. But it may have been a just a group, and said that it played very well. And I watched the tape and I listened to it. And I said, you know, this is something I'd like to have on the radio. I checked with them about you know, it, was it Okay, well, they were just like, leaping out of their chairs. Oh, sure. That'd be great. Put it on. So I told them, we'd put it on. And I want



17:14

actually, I didn't feel it. I only listened to it. And it and it, you know, it's



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visually good, too, because there's a lot. It's a lot of pictures in there of these people, you know, talking to people shaking hands, a lot of video, these people sitting in their living rooms talking about their children, and a lot of why they're going to write and that's what I don't want to get



into that. Because, you know, that was some of the stuff that was really very emotional to me, was, you know, as to me, the discussions, and some of the things that I heard in this about how they spoke to their representatives angered me to no end. Like the guy who said, you know, if your child had come here, gay child had come here, I would not have given them an employment. Yes. But because you came here, you know, I would see you and that I got the sense it wasn't said clearly. But I got the sense that that had impacted him that some change had come over him, because this parent had been there, and that he wouldn't have listened to had had been the gay child.



18:13

And it also brings home the fact that if, if we want equal rights, we have to do it, not only through ourselves, but with the help of many straight people. That's



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right. And you know, no, we don't do anything in this community without support straight friends and right, and straight benefactors. There are a lot of groups that support us in this community. A lot of businesses that are straight that support us in this community. So never underestimate your straight friends when you when you need them most. That a lot of them are going to be there. You're right. Anyway. It is a wonderful take. Yeah, and I You're all queued up. I'm ready, ready to go and I hope you enjoyed as much as I did.



19:08

Deke was a great dad. Like many fathers, he gave baths and read bedtime stories and took his turn in the kitchen and fed the babies. He always helped with the birthday parties and celebrations and he even helped build a tree house. He coached soccer. He led paper drives with Boy Scouts and help with homework and really, in every way never missed an opportunity to encourage and support his children, whether it was academic effort and athletic or musical. Anything that they did at the church or school he was there. In other words, he actively cherished his children. There was never any question of his commitment.



20:02

My family is the most important thing in my life. We have three wonderful children. Rick our oldest is Noah BGN. He lives in California with his partner Steve of nine years. Current and his wife Gina, live in Dallas with their two children. Caitlin, and our three week old grandson, Julie's our youngest. She's a third year medical student in San Antonio, and her partner of three years Alicia will join her when she finishes her clerkship with the Texas Supreme Court. I'm proud of all of our children. There isn't anything I wouldn't do for them to have my children not have the same rights, the same opportunities as their brother as parents. Normal I just couldn't accept that. So we joined the parents, other people who care and we did something we never thought it could do.



21:16

doesn't use daily attended Washington to lobby Congress, members of PFLAG Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays are gathered tonight at Christ Church Cathedral for a pep rally



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of Houston's parents and friends of lesbian and gay groups are gearing up for a road trip to Washington mothers and fathers from across America gathered in the nation's capitol to lobby for their gay children and parents fighting for gay rights took their message to Washington today. They're lobbying Congress for equal rights in the workplace for their children.



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Kirsten page reports that group included a large delegation from Houston.



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These parents know about discrimination against gays and lesbians. All of them have children who are homosexual. The parents are on Capitol Hill lobbying for legislation to prevent job discrimination based on sexual orientation. Houston native Gail Ricky has a daughter who is lesbian. While her daughter has never faced discrimination at work. She says the threat is always there. That's why Gail brought these parents to Washington. She and 29 others from Houston traveled by bus for three days, stopping in cities along the way to spread their message. 200 parents have come together here to proclaim their love for their gay and lesbian children into to say, America open up your eyes and help us correct this grievous wrongs.



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There were many people involved from many backgrounds from all over the country. But we went to Washington for one reason to secure equal rights for all our children.



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And I had a dual reason for finding this trip. Very important. Not only do I have two gay children, a son and a daughter, but my son experienced directly the discrimination that is present in our society concerning jobs. He is a physician and OB GYN. He graduated from Baylor College of Medicine had two interviews and Pennsylvania. Both of them very promising. He had all of his recommendations in his curriculum vitae in order, everything, just as it should be. Both parties were very interested. One of them asked him if he was gay, at which point they disappeared. The other one, he volunteered the information not wishing to live in a closet. And they disappeared. They no longer answered the phone, they no longer answered correspondence. They no longer knew him.



23:52

I have a gay child in the street child. And I'll show you a picture of the two you can't tell who's who. My straight daughter can't be fired for being straight. But my gay daughter has been fired for being gay. And I won't homosexuality to make as much difference as the fact that I'm left handed.



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And is the employment non Discrimination Act, which would say very simply, everyone, whatever their sexual orientation has the right to employment to equal opportunity in the workplace. That's what India calls for something very fair, something very basic, a basic American value.



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And it was extremely painful for him after four years of medical school and four years of residency to discover that he could be summarily dismissed in this way.



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But I thought, like most Americans, that the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and then the subsequent amendment you have it in 1968 solved all the discriminatory problems. I really did. I was amazed to find out that sexual orientation was not a part of it.



25:06

There is no legal reason that an employer cannot fire a person simply because of their sexual orientation has nothing to do with their job performance, or their qualifications. But simply because of what their sexual orientation is.



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At first, they assume well, gee, the Constitution gives protections, and surely somebody can't be fired because they're gay. They didn't know any different, just as I'll have to say I didn't until the individual came up. So our



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daughter went to the unemployment office, and they said, why were you fired? And our daughter said, because I'm gay. And they said, well, sorry, there's nothing we can do for you.



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This is very real, this is not theoretical. This is this happens to good people, good, productive, contributing American citizens who have every reasonable right to expect better treatment, equal treatment,



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before we began dreaming of what it would be like for people across the country to see who parents of gays and lesbians are. And we felt like if we could, could speak to people who are like us, that they could hear our message,



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the most important thing is probably to recognize and what we want for our family, is what everybody else is just like the people next door. It's like the people across the street. We want them to be treated fairly. We want them to be loved, just like other people learn love. We want them to be understood. We want him to be accepted.



26:44

And so about the time that we were having that conversation in into the employment non discrimination act had just been introduced in Congress. And we said, Wouldn't it be great to get on a bus and go across the country stopping at other PFLAG chapters, inviting other PFLAG parents to join with us and say, Let's go to Washington. Let's talk to our elected officials.



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You know, we're pretty new at this whole business of protecting and working for our son and his rights and other people's children. So I don't know that we give a real long detailed answer to why we went other than it just seemed like the right thing to do.



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I went because of family values. Our family values our gay child. And I wanted to go and supportive ENDA, I wanted to go, because I think straight Americans need to speak up for gay rights.



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Uh, one of the things that happened to us early on, was we, we weren't afraid to talk. We weren't afraid to ask questions. Maybe we're even a little bit stupid, you know, because we said, we're not gonna have this and we're gonna learn about it. Now, some of that I'm sure was was maybe a way to get our son to maybe change his mind about what's going on. But that all backfired. And, and what what really impressed me was, in the course of talking to people in

the first week or two, after we had learned about John when we talked to all of our old friends, we heard all the things we had always heard about gay people. And which was, which was all negative. And it was just like, well just forget about him. There's no point in worrying about him anymore. He's gone. Or or



28:45

you? Or, or maybe, you know, he just doesn't know any better yet. Or maybe he can be changed or he needs to be confronted with his sand and things like that.



29:00

Yeah, so we talked to a guy in Austin, a friend of ours that we had met several years ago, that's gay. And Craig told us while we were talking, the first thing he said was, Ken and Linda, I want you to know that every day I walk in the light of God. And that was the first positive thing we had heard from anyone. And it made more sense than anything anyone has told us.



29:24

You know, when I see the level of dicks support and participation in working for the rights of gays and lesbians today, it's hard for me to remember 10 years ago and how uncomfortable he was when it came out to us. Because of his upbringing, and because of what society in our culture has told us. The bad information that we have. Dick is a very loving and supporting human Being and when he got it, when he finally understood the gross injustice of, of what was reality in the lives of our children, then he moved very quickly to a point of great support.



30:20

I struggle with that for 10 years, I guess, and I'm still recovering homophobia person. And I think I've done very well with it. But 10 years is not very fast. So it was difficult for me. And I really can understand people's homophobia.



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We had every kind of person on our trip, we had nurses and teachers and engineers, and physicists and housewives and homemakers, retired people and people with gay children and people who have no gay children.



31:04

Our goal was to talk to people like us to talk to to get the attention of fair minded people to stand on the steps of the Capitol, and through the media, to speak to people like us who recognize unfairness. We want that want them to understand that they have children, we have

children, and that we have a lot in common and they want the best for their children, we want the best for our children. We were calling for fairness.



31:33

I have two children. My son is gay and my daughter strike. And I went to Washington to talk to my senator and my representative to let them know that I want my son to have the same rights in the workplace that my daughter has.



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So we left Houston with about 30 people on the bus. And then the trip was really the best trip was really symbolic because it grew. as we went along, we added to our numbers, more and more families boarded the bus,



32:05

I couldn't sit back and let everybody else take care of something that I needed to get involved into. And it was, it was such a an urge, in my soul to go,



32:22

Don and I have five daughters. And among those five daughters, there are these are professional people. There are degrees in photography, biology, mechanical engineering, business, women's studies, Hotel and Restaurant Management. Liberal Arts, I don't forget, this is among five people plus med school. In Out of all of that, among those five daughters, these professional people, one of them doesn't have the rights and the opportunities of the other four.



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When we left Houston, do remember, some of our parents got on the bus and we saw the Houston headline the next day and it said, gay activists board bus and one of the parents. You know, I took this me. And of course, this particular parent became the most vocal the whole time just out there in public, talking to anybody she could grab. And so we now redefine that gay activists to yes, we're activists and we're committing acts of love for our children.



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And I remember the day we started to leave and there was a thing in the paper about activists from Houston going on this trip and I thought, Oh my God. I'm not an activist. I'm a mother. I don't know nothing about an activist. And by the time I got home, it was a whole different feeling. I've said, Okay, I'm an activist.



34:14

And we're living in I had such an experience. We were looking at the bus window after we had made a stop and we paste out our bulletins. You know, tell him who we were in while we were going and some most everyone lighten both of them did yeah. But as we got back from the bus, and we were driving on we, I looked out and this guy was driving by and he put the little red bulletin that we had up on his windshield, and then he gave a sign language for our lovely And, you know, the whole bus and we said, look,



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I did not become by choice and advocate, I moved into advocacy.



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I really do believe in the goodness of all people, and if they can just hear and understand that these are our precious children, and our friends that we, we love so much.



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By the time we got to Washington, we had over 200 parents from proximately 30 states, who came together and met each other for the first time. And we knew that we already had something in common, we had a collective voice that could speak



35:45

for all the people going to Washington and lobbying for this and that I think that we were told again, and again and again that how powerful it was to see parents arrive and and talk about their gay and lesbian children.



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And then we lobbied we lobbied I even like to say it, we lobbied,



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I told our congressman who had just had a new baby in December, that our children were little babies like his. He said, and I can't imagine anything that baby could do that I would not love him.



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There you go. One legislator said. I'm glad you came. Because if your children had called me, I would not have given them an appointment.



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And that was so hard to hear that, that really hurt to hear that my daughter would not have gotten the appointment. And yet, what I understood what he was saying was that he identified with my husband and me, and therefore he would he would



36:56

listen, parents said to him, you are admitting then that you would not have been inclined to give our gay and lesbian children an appointment. He said That's right. Which



37:09

but if it's that way, then that's even more reason for us to go and make a statement.



37:18

He said, well, in regards to end, he said, We don't need that law, because gays and lesbians already have protections. And I said, Well, that's interesting.



37:29

You said it's in the Constitution, isn't it? No, I don't. And he was he was very surprised when we tell him that we have a personal acquaintance with people who have lost their jobs, because they were gay or lesbian. And he was like, unbelieving. I mean, not that we weren't being honest, but he just didn't think that could happen.



37:55

And he once again, reinforced the fact that here are parents. Add in