

Wendell Baker
1070 Larch Ave.
Moraga, Ca 94556

Mr. Wayne Brock
Chief Scout Executive
BSA National Headquarters
PO Box 152079
Irving, Texas 75015-2079

Dear Mr. Brock,

In my role as scoutmaster I arrange to have an informal scoutmaster conference with the eighth grade boys in our troop. In this conference I tell them that they are now old enough to start being part of the solution instead of being part of the problem. I tell them that they have to start working with me to help stop bullying both inside and outside of the troop.

In doing research on the internet I have found news stories about boys who have committed suicide because they were bullied about their sexual orientation.

Xxxx XXXXXXXX, 17 of XXXXXXXX, XXXXXXXXX, died Xxx xx, 2012

Xxxx XXXXXXXX, 14 of XXXXXXXX, XXXXXXXXX, died Xxx xx, 2012

Xxxx XXXXXXXX, 17 of XXXXXXXX, XXXXXXXXX, died Xxx xx, 2012

Xxxx XXXXXXXX, 18 of XXXXXXXX, XXXXXXXXX, died Xxx xx, 2012

Xxxx XXXXXXXX, 17 of XXXXXXXX, XXXXXXXXX, died Xxx xx, 2012

I do not know if any of these boys were in the Boy Scouts. I do not know if any of their tormentors were scouts, although it seems likely. What I do know is that if we reached out to these boys instead of shunning them, if we made the scouts a safe place for them to be, we could have saved their lives.

Isn't it time the Boy Scouts start being part of the solution instead of being part of the problem?

I ask you to please work to have the unfair discriminatory policy towards gays rescinded as soon as possible.

Sincerely

Wendell Baker

cc: Mr Wayne Perry
Mr. John Fenoglio (MDSC)
Mr. Lou Paulson (MDSC)
Mr. Steve Israel (MDSC-Aklan District)
Scouts for Equality

Note: I removed the names from this copy out of respect to the grieving families and communities, you can find these and many additional cases by searching the internet.