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## Project 2025

Aug 14, 2024

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In the Republican manifesto “Project 2025”, the blueprint for Donald Trump’s presidency, the foreword cites the need to outlaw all forms of pornography (a seemingly reasonable desire), but then goes on to define pornography as applying to all forms of LGBTQ practice and even the existence of LGBTQ persons. It reveals a deep hatred for those who do not meet their rigidly defined criteria for sexual roles as heterosexual cisgender male/female.

Medical science teaches us that homosexuality is likely determined prenatally; gay people were created that way. Likewise, at least 60% of people who later identify as transgender are aware of their difference before age 10. They do not “choose” to be queer, they discover it about themselves. They frequently dread coming out to their parents and peers because of the stigma it carries in our society. Being different is hard enough; the incidence of depression and suicide among LGBTQ persons is significantly higher than in the general population. We need to accept and support them as they struggle with the difficulties they face; we should celebrate their unique gifts and talents.

In my 42 years of medical practice I have cared for many individuals whose sexuality is not “straight”, and each of them is an individual like any other, with hopes, dreams, and love for family just like mine. Most of us have family members in the LGBTQ community, and we don’t want to see them excluded and discriminated against. It’s time to stand up for them and reject the hateful language of Project 2025!

Hatred has no place in America, the land of the free. Vote for Democrats at the national, state, and local levels!

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