

1 **[Youth Commission supports students standing up for respect and justice and urges the Board**  
2 **of Supervisors and Mayor to condemn newly issued morality clauses and their effects on**  
3 **students and educators]**

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5 Supplemental Information

6 Beginning in February 2015, high school students at Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep began rallying  
7 against new morality clauses proposed by the San Francisco Archdiocese that would be added to the  
8 teacher handbook for the 2015-16 school year.

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10 Among the proposed morality clauses are recommendations that teachers and staff at Bay Area high  
11 schools within the Archdiocese-- Archbishop Riordan and Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep in San  
12 Francisco, Marin Catholic in Kentfield, and Junipero Serra in San Mateo County<sup>1</sup>-- accept "morality  
13 clauses" that condemn homosexuality as contrary to "natural law," contraception as "intrinsically evil,"  
14 ordination of female priests as impossible, and use of assisted reproductive technology as a "grave  
15 evil." Every staff member would be expected to teach as ministers and "conduct their lives so as to not  
16 visibly contradict, undermine or deny these truths." By claiming teachers as ministers in the proposed  
17 contract language, teachers' job security is under threat. Failure to sign the contract, or gay marriage  
18 may lead to termination.<sup>2</sup> The language not only hurts teachers, but the entire school community.

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21 Since then, students began an online petition proclaiming that "Discrimination and Fear Don't Belong  
22 in Our Schools!" with over 6,000 signatures, and created a social media campaign:  
23 #TeachAcceptance. On February 8<sup>th</sup>, more than 100 students all over the city participated in a student-

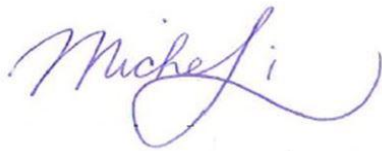
24 <sup>1</sup> Leff, Lisa. "San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone Getting Pushback For 'Moral Clauses'" *The Huffington Post*.  
TheHuffingtonPost.com, 06 Feb. 2015. Web. 15 Feb. 2015.

25 <sup>2</sup> Tucker, Jill. "Morality Clauses Alarm Teachers at SF Catholic Schools." *Catholic Schools. Crux*, 08 Feb. 2015. Web. 15 Feb.  
2015.

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led vigil outside Saint Mary’s Cathedral to protest against the morality clauses.<sup>3</sup> The next organized vigil is scheduled for Wednesday, February 18, 2015.

The newly issued morality clauses will affect over 3,000 students from all four schools. If it is implemented in the 2015-16 teacher handbooks, it will hinder students from discussing or questioning homosexuality and LGBT identity, contraception, and assisted reproductive technology with their teachers.



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Michel Li  
2014-2015 Youth Commission Chair  
Adopted by Youth Commission February 17, 2015

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid