

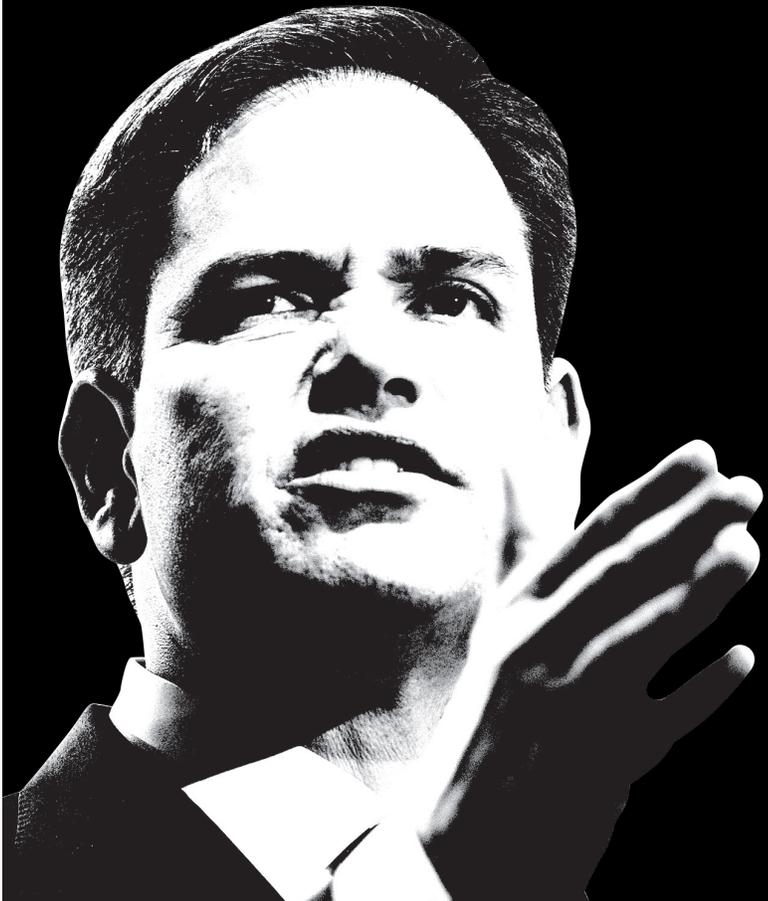
2016:

REPUBLICAN FACTS



MARCO RUBIO:

CAMPAIGNS WITH
NOM, ANTI-EQUALITY
ORGANIZATIONS



Whether the issue is marriage equality or protecting workers from discrimination, Florida Senator Marco Rubio has consistently opposed giving LGBT Americans equal treatment.

Marriage: Rubio has consistently opposed marriage equality. He's made a special point to correct press reports that suggest he is open to marriage equality. And he even thanked Speaker John Boehner for spending taxpayer dollars to protect the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

Discrimination: As a candidate, Rubio said he opposed including sexual orientation under civil rights laws. Despite claiming he opposed discrimination, Rubio voted against ENDA, which would give LGBT Americans explicit protection from discrimination in the workplace. And he threatened to oppose his own immigration bill if it included same-sex couples.

Executive Order: Unclear

Conversion Therapy: Rubio has raised money in Florida for a key backer of conversion therapy.

Harmful Rhetoric: Rubio has recorded robocalls for the National Organization for Marriage (NOM), which named him a "real marriage" champion. He has helped raise money for the Florida Family Policy Council, whose leader said that being LGBT is an "artificial, social construct" that is "dangerous."

Adoption: Rubio opposes allowing LGBT couples to adopt because children shouldn't "be part of a social experiment."

Anti-bullying: Unclear

RUBIO'S NOTABLE QUOTES ON LGBT EQUALITY

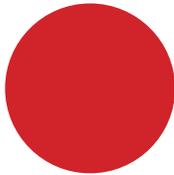
Rubio Spoke Out Against Allowing Same-Sex Couples From Adopting, Saying Children “Shouldn’t Be Forced To Be Part Of A Social Experiment.” According to the Tallahassee Democrat: “The Department of Children and Families is under fire from children’s advocates for allowing foster children to spend the night in a conference room in Tallahassee, but legislative leaders said Wednesday that won’t change their minds about allowing gays to adopt. ‘Some of these kids are the most disadvantaged in the state,’ said House Majority Leader Marco Rubio of West Miami. ‘They shouldn’t be forced to be part of a social experiment.’” [Tallahassee Democrat, 4/6/2006]

Rubio Suggested That Those Against Marriage Equality Faced “Intolerance.” The Washington Times reported that Senator Rubio “complained that those who question gay unions have faced ‘intolerance’ for their views from same-sex marriage activists. ‘Even before this speech is over, I will be attacked as someone who is a hater or a bigot or someone who is antigay,’ he predicted.” [Washington Times, 7/24/2014]

Rubio Said He Would Be Against His Own Immigration Bill If It Gave Same-Sex Couples Rights. According to CNN, Senator Rubio said when discussing his immigration bill, “If this bill has in it something that gives gay couples immigration rights and so forth, it kills the bill. I’m gone. I’m off it.” [CNN, Political Ticker, 6/13/2013]

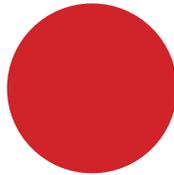
RUBIO ON THE ISSUES

MARRIAGE EQUALITY:



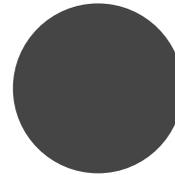
Opposed

PROTECTING LGBT AMERICANS FROM DISCRIMINATION:



Opposed

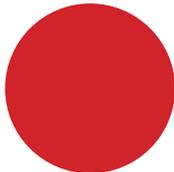
PRESIDENT OBAMA'S EXECUTIVE ORDER:



Unclear

President Obama's executive order bars federal agencies and contractors from discriminating against employees on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity... an order that applied to about 24,000 companies with an estimated 28 million workers.

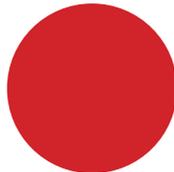
BAN HARMFUL “CONVERSION THERAPY:”



Opposed

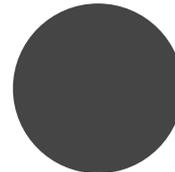
Conversion therapy is a range of dangerous and discredited practices aimed at changing one's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Young LGBT people are at risk of being hurt by these practices, which have been linked to depression and suicide, among others.

LGBT ADOPTION:



Opposed

ANTI-BULLYING:



Unclear

SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS ON MARRIAGE EQUALITY

- **THANKED SPEAKER BOEHNER FOR SPENDING TAXPAYER DOLLARS ON LAWSUIT TO PRESERVE DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT (DOMA)**
- **CAMPAIGNED WITH FAMILY POLICY COUNCIL, WHICH SOUGHT TO STOP MARRIAGE EQUALITY**
- **SUGGESTED DEMOCRATS WERE ONLY PUSHING MARRIAGE EQUALITY TO DIVIDE PEOPLE AND GAIN A POLITICAL ADVANTAGE**
- **CORRECTED REPORT THAT ERRONEOUSLY SUGGESTED HE WAS OPEN TO MARRIAGE EQUALITY**
- **RECORDED ROBOCALLS FOR NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MARRIAGE OPPOSING SAME-SEX MARRIAGE**
- **OPPOSED COURT RULINGS ON DOMA AND PROPOSITION 8, SAYING COURT HAD “OVERSTEPPED” ITS BOUNDS**
- **DOES NOT BELIEVE THERE IS A CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO SAME-SEX MARRIAGE**
- **ENCOURAGED FLORIDA ATTORNEY GENERAL PAM BONDI TO CONTINUE FIGHTING AGAINST SAME-SEX MARRIAGE**
- **SAID MARRIAGE SHOULD BE LEFT UP TO THE STATES TO DECIDE, AND THAT STATE LAWMAKERS SHOULD BE FREE TO OUTLAW SAME-SEX MARRIAGE WITHOUT COURTS OVERTURNING THE LAWS**

Rubio Thanked Speaker Boehner For Taking Action To Defend The Defense Of Marriage Act.

Senator Rubio released a statement regarding the Defense Of Marriage Act that read: "I want to thank Speaker Boehner and the House Republican leadership for taking action to defend this critical law that was enacted by a bipartisan majority in Congress and signed by President Bill Clinton. It is unfortunate that President Obama decided to no longer defend the Defense of Marriage Act. While much of the debate in Washington is focused on creating jobs and growing our economy, we should not sit by while this administration makes profound and regrettable decisions based more upon the politics of the day than the words of our Founding Fathers. This law protects one of our most sacred institutions and because of the House's actions today, it will be defended." [Office of Senator Rubio, Press Release, 3/4/2011]

Rubio Supported The Florida Family Policy Council's "Ignite Enduring Cultural Transformation" Campaign; Campaign Sought To Stop Marriage Equality, Curtail Abortion Rights, And Ban Bathrooms Inclusive Of All Gender Identities.

According to the Florida Independent: "Rubio in particular has associated with anti-abortion groups since campaigning for his current seat in the U.S. Senate. Rubio appeared at a policy awards dinner for the Florida Family Policy Council, and threw his support behind the group's 'Ignite an Enduring Cultural Transformation' campaign. 'Ignite' aims to raise large amounts of cash for 'groups [that] intend to pass anti-gay marriage amendments, curtail abortion rights and, in at least one case, ban 'transgender bathrooms,'" The American Independent reported." [The Florida Independent, 8/16/2011]

Rubio Said That Democrats Were Using Same-Sex Marriage Issue In Order To "Label These Folks As Left Undesirable" And Say "If You Don't Agree With [The Left] You Are A Bad Person."

According to ABC: "Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., said Thursday that the left is using the gay marriage debate and other issues in an effort to divide the country and drive attention away from President Obama's failings on the economy. 'They [Democrats] don't want to have a debate on marriage or these ideas. What they are saying is if you don't agree with them you're a bad person, and that's usually their default position,' Rubio said in an interview on Laura Ingraham's radio show. 'For example, if you don't agree with their ideas about immigration and immigration reform, you're anti-immigrant,' he said. 'If you don't agree with their ideas of how the tax code should be structured, you're anti-working, you're for the rich guys and you're against the working class. So we have to work – we have to understand that's what their strategy is. 'They can't win a debate on the merits of these ideas,' he added. 'They can't. They know that. So they don't want to be involved in a debate on the merits. 'They immediately go to the, 'Let's label these folks as left undesirable,' for the reasons that you've outlined. So we have to be aware of it and we have to be able to point that out. And we also have truth on our side. We also have facts and figures on our side, and we have to be able to make that compelling argument and not fall into that trap of trying to prove that we're not haters, that we're not trying to overcompensate, either.' Rubio said he believes in keeping the institution of marriage as being between one man and one woman. He added that people should not be demonized for holding that view. [ABC News, The Note, 5/10/2012]

Rubio Said President Obama's Acceptance Of Same-Sex Marriage Was "An Effort By This President To Divide One Group Of Americans Against Another Group Of Americans For The Purposes Of Getting Him Re-Elected. It's Very, Very Sad."

Rubio told Laura Ingraham: "The issue here is a very straight-forward one. And that is this institution called marriage, which societies have had for a very long time, what does it mean? What is it? What is a marriage? And for those of us that believe that a marriage – the word marriage – is a very specific institution, and that is the union of a man and a woman under law together,' the senator insisted. 'I think you can have that belief and not have to be characterized the way some people are characterized about it. I think it's an honest and open debate that people are having all across the country.' He continued, 'And so I think Charles is absolutely right when he talks about one of the pitfalls of this issue is this effort to demonize people. But that's not unique to this issue... 'And obviously if you don't vote for the Democratic plan on student loans you're not in favor of students. If you don't agree that the federal government should have the power to mandate that the Catholic Church pay for things the Catholic Church teaches against you're waging a war against women. If you don't believe that we should raise taxes you're waging a war against the working class. I mean every week it is an effort by this president to divide one group of Americans against another group of Americans for the purposes of getting him reelected. It's very, very sad.' he finished." [Philadelphia Conservative Examiner, 5/11/2012]

Rubio Said Same-Sex Marriage Was A "Unique Institution...I Think That's How The Majority Of People Feel In Key States Where This Has Been Voted On."

According to Newsmax: "Sen. Marco Rubio said Tuesday that President Barack Obama is using gay marriage to distract from his own dismal record on the economy. The Florida Republican, author of a new autobiography, 'An American Son,' told Newsmax TV that he doesn't think the marriage issue, which he called a personal one, will help Obama in the election. 'I believe marriage is a unique institution,

it's the union between one man and one woman, and that's my personal belief. I think Americans of good faith can disagree on the issue but that's certainly how I feel and I think that's how the majority of people feel in key states where this has been voted on,' Rubio said." [\[Newsmax, 5/15/2012\]](#)

In An Evangelical Magazine, Rubio Reiterated His Opposition To Marriage Equality. Rubio, who represents Florida in the U.S. Senate, told Christianity Today interviewer Sarah Pulliam Bailey, 'In terms of the Bible's interpretation of marriage, what our faith teaches is pretty straightforward. There's not much debate about that. The debate is about what society should tolerate, and what society should allow our laws to be. I believe marriage is a unique and specific institution that is the result of thousands of years of wisdom, which concluded that the ideal – not the only way but certainly the ideal – situation to raise children to become productive and healthy humans is in a home with a father and mother married to each other. Does that mean people who are not in that circumstance cannot be successful? Of course not. It's not a discriminatory thing. I'm not angry at anyone because of it, but I also have to be honest about what I believe marriage should be in our laws.'" [\[Advocate, 6/20/2012\]](#)

- **After USA Today Blogger Categorized Rubio As 'Open' To Marriage Equality, Rubio Spokesman Clarified, "To Characterize His Views On Gay Marriage As 'Open' Is Not Accurate?"** According to the Advocate: "The interview led USA Today blogger Cathy Lynn Grossman, in a Tuesday post, to call the Republican senator 'open' to consideration of equal marriage rights. Not so, says Rubio spokesman Alex Conant, who responded to Grossman today. 'Senator Rubio believes that the union of one man and one woman is the ideal setting to raise a strong family and why our laws should recognize the institution of marriage as a union of one man and one woman,' Conant said. 'He recognizes that children raised in other settings, such as those raised by single parents, can and do succeed as well. But the ideal setting to raise children is by a married man and woman. To characterize his views on gay marriage as 'open' is not accurate.'" [\[Advocate, 6/20/2012\]](#)

Rubio Participated In National Organization For Marriage Robocalls Against Marriage Equality. According to the Washington Blade: "Rising Republican star Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) is speaking out against same-sex marriage in robocalls being sent to voters in states deciding the issue at the ballot and presidential election swing states, according to an anti-gay group. The National Organization for Marriage, one of the major groups opposing marriage equality, included Rubio in a press release as among those making calls against same-sex marriage along with former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and Focus on the Family co-founder James Dobson." [\[Washington Blade, 11/2/2012\]](#)

Rubio Said He Had "Always Been Uncomfortable With A Federal Constitutional Amendment On Anything?" In an interview with BuzzFeed, Senator Rubio said "I've always been uncomfortable with a federal constitutional amendment on anything, particularly on that, because I think it steps on the rights of states to define marriage. I think that's a two-way street, though. If states define marriage as between one man and one woman, if you're going to say it belongs to the states, then you have to respect whatever decision they make." [\[BuzzFeedBuzzFeed, 2/6/2013; VIDEO\]](#)

Rubio Said That The Supreme Court Should Not Have "Second-Guessed" The American People On Marriage. The News-Press reported that Senator Rubio said, "I believe the Supreme Court made a serious mistake (Wednesday) when it overstepped its important, but limited role. I do not believe that President Clinton and overwhelming bipartisan majorities of both houses of Congress acted with malice or intent to 'demean' a class of people when they adopted a uniform definition of marriage for the purposes of federal law. The Court should not have second-guessed the will of the American people acting through their elected representatives without firm constitutional justifications. The sweeping language of (Wednesday's) majority opinion is more troubling than the ruling itself as it points to further interference by the Court in the years to come." [\[The News-Press, 6/27/2013\]](#)

Rubio Said On Proposition 8 He Believed The Supreme Court Overstepped On The Defense Against Marriage Act. According to the New York Times: "After the court's rulings on the Defense of Marriage Act and California's Proposition 8 this summer, Senator Marco Rubio issued a statement saying the court had 'overstepped' on DOMA. But, he added: 'I do not believe there exists a federal constitutional right to same-sex marriage. Therefore, I am glad the Supreme Court did not create one in the Proposition 8 case.'" [\[New York Times, 11/2/2013\]](#)

Rubio Said Marriage Had Always Been Regulated By The States. The Examiner reported: "Marriage has always been something that has been regulated by the states,' Rubio told the Examiner. 'Some Republicans support those changes in state laws [supporting gay marriage], and they certainly have the right to define marriage differently. That's reflective of how public opinion in America is moving.'" [\[The Examiner, 6/26/2014\]](#)

Rubio Claimed That If To Be Against Marriage Equality Was “Bigotry,” Then President Obama Was A Bigot Before 2012. According to Politico: “Rubio reminded the audience that President Barack Obama was among those who didn’t support gay marriage — at least publicly — until the months leading up to his re-election. ‘If support for traditional marriage is bigotry, then Barack Obama was a bigot until just before the 2012 election,’ he said.” [Politico, 7/23/2014]

Rubio Suggested That Those Against Marriage Equality Faced “Intolerance.” The Washington Times reported that Senator Rubio “complained that those who question gay unions have faced ‘intolerance’ for their views from same-sex marriage activists. ‘Even before this speech is over, I will be attacked as someone who is a hater or a bigot or someone who is anti-gay,’ he predicted.” [Washington Times, 7/24/2014]

Rubio Said If The Supreme Court Ruled In Favor Of Marriage Equality Opponents Would Be “In The Same Boats As Opponents Of Roe v. Wade.” According to CNN: “Rubio said if ultimately the Supreme Court issued a ruling protecting gay marriage as constitutional, opponents of gay marriage would be ‘in the same boat as opponents of Roe v. Wade,’ the SCOTUS decision that established a woman’s constitutional right to an abortion.” [CNN, 1/7/2015]

Rubio Suggested Legislatures Had A Right To Work Against Marriage Equality Without Them Being Over-turned By A Judge. While giving a speech at Catholic University of America, Senator Rubio said, “Americans like myself who support keeping the traditional definition of marriage also have a right to work to keep traditional definition of marriage in our laws without seeing them overturned by a judge.” [Politico, 7/23/2014]

- **Rubio Clarified That State Officials Had No Option But To Abide By The Courts Decision.** According to CNN, Senator Rubio “clarified during his Wednesday phone conversation that he felt his remarks did not constitute a shift from his July speech — that while he felt the court was mistaken, the state’s officials had no option but to abide by it. ‘I think [the court’s decision] is wrong, both on legal principles, and I also think it’s the wrong way to’ reverse Florida’s gay marriage ban, which was approved by voters in 2008. He said the proper way to overturn a gay marriage ban is to offer an opposing ballot measure for the state’s voters to again consider.” [CNN, 1/7/2015]
- **Rubio Thought Clerks Did Not Have Choice In Issuing Marriage Licenses Unless There Was A Stay By The Court.** According to CNN, when asked if clerks having an option to follow the court’s decision to issue marriage licenses following Florida’s same-sex marriage ban being struck down, Rubio said, “I don’t think [Florida’s] clerks have a choice, at this stage, given that the ruling is there unless there’s a stay.” [CNN, 1/7/2015]

Rubio Would Not Accept “That Belief In Traditional Marriage Equates To Bigotry And Hatred.” According to the Tampa Bay Times, Senator Rubio said, “The trend that I will not accept, however, is the growing attitude that belief in traditional marriage equates to bigotry and hatred. Just as California has a right to redefine marriage to include same-sex couples, Florida has a right to define it as one man and one woman.” [Tampa Bay Times, 1/8/2015] Rubio Believed In Definition Of A Marriage As “One Man And One Woman.” According to the Tampa Bay Times, Senator Rubio said, “Thousands of years of human history have taught us that the ideal setting for children to grow up in is with a mother and a father committed to each other, living together and sharing the responsibility of raising their children. It is for this reason and this reason alone that I continue to believe marriage should be defined as one man and one woman. It is neither my place nor my intention to dictate to anyone who they are allowed to love or live with.” [Tampa Bay Times, 1/8/2015]

Rubio Said He Did Not Believe There Was A “U.S. Constitutional Right To Same-Sex Marriage.” According to Stuart News: “‘I do not believe that there is a U.S. constitutional right to same-sex marriage,’ Rubio said Wednesday. ‘If a state wants to change its marriage laws, it should do so by petitioning their elected representatives in the legislatures, and in the case of Florida, by placing on the ballot a question on the issue.’” [The Stuart News, 1/11/2015]

Rubio Hoped Florida Attorney General Bondi Continued Her Fight Against Marriage Equality. According to Stuart News: “During an interview with reporters Wednesday, U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio said he hopes Bondi continues her fight against gay marriage.” [The Stuart News, 1/11/2015]

Rubio Said That Marriage Was Defined “As The Union Of One Man And One Woman,” But Called For The Supreme Court Decision To Be Respected. According to CNN: “The Florida freshman senator recently told CNN that he believes ‘the institution of marriage is defined as the union of one man and one woman,’ but called for the Supreme Court’s decision to be respected – even if that decision is to allow same-sex marriage everywhere.” [CNN, 1/25/2015]

- **Rubio Said He Did Not Think It Was Realistic To Overturn The Supreme Court Ruling On Same-Sex Marriage Through Constitutional Amendment.** Rubio told CNN: “I wouldn’t agree with their ruling [on same-sex marriage], but that would be the law of the land that we would have to follow until it’s somehow reversed – either by a future Supreme Court, or a U.S. constitutional amendment, which I don’t think is realistic or foreseeable.” [CNN, 1/25/2015]

Rubio Was Called A “Real Marriage Champion” By The National Organization For Marriage. The National Organization for Marriage released a statement that read, “With a solid pro-marriage majority in both the House and the US Senate, populated by real marriage champions like Representatives Raul Labrador and John Fleming in the House and Senators Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, and newly elected Thom Tillis and Tom Cotton in the Senate, we are in a great position to advance critical legislation.” [The National Organization for Marriage News Release, 1/30/2015]

Rubio Respected The Court Ruling On Striking Down The Defense Of Marriage Act, But Said It Differed With His Personal Views. The Boston Herald reported: “Some GOP hopefuls are already seeking political cover should the court follow its own logic in the 2013 case that struck down part of the Defense of Marriage Act because it had ‘the purpose and effect to disparage and to injure’ married gays’ and lesbians’ personhood and dignity.’ Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio all say they respect court rulings, even if they differ from their personal views.” [Boston Herald, 2/2/2015]

SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS ON DISCRIMINATION PROTECTIONS FOR LGBT AMERICANS

- **OPPOSED ADDING SEXUAL ORIENTATION TO EXISTING CIVIL RIGHTS PROTECTIONS**
- **SAID HE OPPOSED DISCRIMINATION, BUT VOTED AGAINST ENDA IN THE U.S. SENATE**
- **THREATENED TO OPPOSE HIS OWN IMMIGRATION BILL OVER PROVISIONS FOR SAME-SEX COUPLES**
- **SUPPORTS LEGAL LOOPHOLES THAT WOULD ALLOW PRIVATE BUSINESSES TO DENY SERVICES TO LGBT COUPLES**

Rubio Said He Was “Not For Any Special Protections Based On Orientation.” According to Think Progress, when asked about the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, Senator Rubio said, “By and large I think all Americans should be protected, but I’m not for any special protections based on orientation.” [\[Think Progress, 6/13/2013; VIDEO\]](#)

Rubio Voted Against The Employment Non-Discrimination Act. In 2013, Senator Rubio voted against the Employment Non-Discrimination Act that the Miami Herald reported “would make it illegal under federal law for employers to discriminate against their employees based on the employee’s sexual orientation or gender identity. These same basic workplace protections are already afforded to individuals on the basis of race, creed, national origin, gender, and disability status.” [\[S. 815 Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 2013, Vote #232 64-23, 11/7/2013; Miami Herald, 11/20/2013\]](#)

- **Rubio Believed The Employment Non-Discrimination Act Went Beyond Protecting Workers.** According to the Tampa Bay Times, Rubio’s office “said he opposed the Employment Non-Discrimination Act because it goes far ‘beyond protecting workers from discrimination based on sexual orientation.’” [\[Tampa Bay Times, 11/4/2013\]](#)

Rubio Said He Was Against Discrimination And That “The Best People Should Be Hired For Jobs.” According to BuzzFeed: “Rubio himself, though, softened his opposition to same-sex couples’ marriage rights with general comments opposing discrimination, saying, ‘I’m against discriminating against people. I think the best people should be hired for jobs.’” [\[BuzzFeed, 2/6/2013\]](#)

Rubio Said He Would Be Against His Own Immigration Bill If It Gave Same-Sex Couples Rights. According to CNN, Senator Rubio, when discussing his immigration bill said, “If this bill has in it something that gives gay couples immigration rights and so forth, it kills the bill. I’m gone. I’m off it.” [\[CNN, Political Ticker, 6/13/2013\]](#)
Rubio Said He Would Vote Against Any Bill That Included Same-Sex Provisions. According to the Rockford Register Star: “Backers of gay and lesbian rights wanted wording attached to the immigration reform bill to ensure that same-sex couples are covered in the new legislation. That wording probably would have doomed the bill’s chances. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., said this month that he would vote against any bill that included same-sex amendments – and Rubio is one of the bill’s sponsors.” [\[Rockford Register Star, 6/27/2013\]](#)

Rubio Did Not Believe A Caterer Or Photographer Should Be Forced To Serve a Same-Sex Marriage. In an appearance on NBC’s Meet the Press, when discussing Arizona’s anti LGBT law that was veto by the governor, Senator Rubio said, “I don’t believe that gay Americans should be denied services at a restaurant or hotel or anything of that nature. I also don’t believe however that a caterer or photographer should be punished by the state for refusing to provide services for a gay wedding because of their religious beliefs. We’ve got to figure out a way to protect that, as well.” [\[NBC Meet the Press, 3/2/2014\]](#)

SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS ON DANGEROUS “CONVERSION THERAPY”

- **RAISED MONEY FOR FLORIDA FAMILY POLICY COUNCIL, WHICH SUPPORTS DANGEROUS CONVERSION THERAPY**

Rubio Raised Money For Group That Promoted “Conversion Therapy!” According to Mother Jones: “Rubio, a possible GOP presidential candidate in 2016, will deliver the keynote address at the annual fundraiser for the Florida Family Policy Council, a prominent social conservative organization that promotes so-called ‘conversion therapy’ to help LGBT individuals become straight. Conversion therapy has been condemned as a form of abuse by psychologists.” [\[Mother Jones, 11/11/2013\]](#)

- **Headline:** Marco Rubio Raising Money for Group That Tries to Turn Gay People Straight [\[Mother Jones, 11/11/2013\]](#)

SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS ON RHETORIC AND INTOLERANCE

- **NAMED A “REAL MARRIAGE CHAMPION” BY NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MARRIAGE (NOM)**
- **PARTNERED WITH NOM TO RECORD ROBOCALLS OPPOSING SAME-SEX MARRIAGE**
- **RAISED MONEY FOR FLORIDA FAMILY POLICY COUNCIL, WHICH SAID THAT BEING LGBT IS AN “ARTIFICIAL, SOCIAL CONSTRUCT” THAT IS “DANGEROUS”**

Rubio Was Called A “Real Marriage Champion” By The National Organization For Marriage. The National Organization for Marriage released a statement that read: “With a solid pro-marriage majority in both the House and the US Senate, populated by real marriage champions like Representatives Raul Labrador and John Fleming in the House and Senators Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, and newly elected Thom Tillis and Tom Cotton in the Senate, we are in a great position to advance critical legislation.” [\[The National Organization for Marriage News Release, 1/30/2015\]](#)

Rubio Raised Money For Group That Promoted “Conversion Therapy!” According to Mother Jones: “Rubio, a possible GOP presidential candidate in 2016, will deliver the keynote address at the annual fundraiser for the Florida Family Policy Council, a prominent social conservative organization that promotes so-called ‘conversion therapy’ to help LGBT individuals become straight. Conversion therapy has been condemned as a form of abuse by psychologists.” [\[Mother Jones, 11/11/2013\]](#)

Rubio Told The Anti-LGBT Florida Family Council The Debate Should Be Which “Values And Morals Our Nation Should Focus On.” In a fundraiser dinner for the anti-LGBT Florida Family Policy Council, Senator Rubio said “The debate we should be having isn’t whether or not we have a right to talk about values and morals in the public square, the debate we should be having instead is which values and morals our nation should focus on.” [\[Between the Lines, 11/21/2013\]](#)

- **Florida Family Policy Council’s Stemberger Said It Was “Horrible” And “Tantamount To Abuse” For Society And Parents To Let Children Explore Sexuality And That “We Are Not Going To Tolerate Someone Who Is ‘Here And Queer; Loud And Proud; All Of That Nonsense.”** Asked by Janet Mefferd how Stemberger’s new organization, Trail Life USA, would avoid running into the LGBT issues the Boy Scouts faced, Stemberger said, “Well first of all, we’re not going to allow open and avowed homosexuality. It’s really important that we distinguish between a mere same-sex attraction, which by the way 20-25 percent of

young boys as they are growing up will experience some sort of gender ambiguity or confusion, or just needing to wonder who they are, needing affirmation, that's not uncommon at all. But what's horrible is to have the society and schools and even parents, which is tantamount to abuse in my judgment, saying 'oh he is special, he must be gay, he must be gender confused, let's let him explore.' That is just absolutely nonsense and it's an abuse to the child. We need to be reaffirming that child of their God-given biology that they are special, made in His image, and help them understand these things. So we're not going to turn away a kid like that, but we are not going to tolerate activists. We are not going to tolerate someone who is 'here and queer; loud and proud; all of that nonsense, that is completely inappropriate in a program where there's children." [\[Janet Mefferd Show, 9/12/2013, AUDIO\]](#)

- **Florida Family Policy Council Pressured Boy Scouts To Maintain Anti-LGBT Policy.** The Associated Press reported: "Some conservative activists sought to organize e-mail and phone call campaigns aimed at pressuring the Boy Scouts to maintain the mandatory no-gays policies. Among them was John Stemberger, a former scout and now president of the conservative Florida Family Policy Council. 'If the BSA departs from its policies on allowing openly homosexual scoutmasters and boys in the program it could destroy the legitimacy and the security of this iconic institution,' Stemberger wrote to his supporters. 'I pray that the BSA does not open a can of worms that would cause a mass exodus from a program that America needs now more than ever.'" [Associated Press, 1/29/2013]
- **Florida Family Policy Council Opposed Adding Sexual Orientation To Fair-Housing Ordinance.** The Orlando Sentinel reported: "Gays and conservative Christians are expected to clash today when the Orange County Commission considers adding sexual orientation to its fair-housing ordinance... The conservative groups are expected to argue that adding sexual orientation is unnecessary and affording gays and lesbians a protected status endorses that lifestyle. 'There is no significant history or problem or issue with discrimination based upon sexuality in Orange County. To the contrary, this community is very tolerant and even accepting of gay and lesbian neighbors,' said John Stemberger, president of the Orlando-based Florida Family Policy Council." [Orlando Sentinel, 7/11/2006]

Rubio Withdrew Support Of What Would Have Been The First Openly-LGBT Black Federal Judge.

According to the New York Times: "The nomination of a gay black Miami judge to the federal bench will not move forward after Senator Marco Rubio announced he was withdrawing his support over concerns about the judge's actions in two criminal cases. Judge William Thomas was nominated to the Federal District Court in Miami. Without Mr. Rubio's approval, Judge William Thomas's nomination to the Federal District Court for the Southern District of Florida, in Miami, is effectively blocked. Judge Thomas, who serves on the Miami-Dade Circuit, was nominated by President Obama, with Mr. Rubio's backing, more than 10 months ago." [\[New York Times, 9/23/2013\]](#)

- **Legal Advocates Accused Rubio Of Playing Politics Because He Would Have Been "The First Openly Gay African-American To Serve As A Federal Judge."** According to Congressional Quarterly: "Liberal legal advocates accused Rubio of playing politics, arguing that tea party groups in Florida had targeted Thomas not because of his judicial record, but because he would have become the first openly gay African-American to serve as a federal judge." [Congressional Quarterly, 1/6/2014]
- **Rubio Originally Supported Judge William L. Thomas Before Changing Course Citing Criminal Cases.** According to Congressional Quarterly: "Rubio, R-Fla., supported Thomas when Obama nominated him in November 2012 to be a federal trial judge in the Southern District of Florida. But Rubio changed course last fall after concluding that the nominee, currently a state judge in Florida, had not demonstrated an appropriate 'judicial temperament' in a pair of criminal cases he had decided." [Congressional Quarterly, 1/6/2014]
- **White House Did Not Re-Nominate Judge William L. Thomas For The Federal Bench.** According to Congressional Quarterly: "Sen. Marco Rubio's opposition to one of President Barack Obama's judicial nominees paid off Monday when the White House dropped William L. Thomas' name from a long list of candidates it re-nominated to the federal bench for consideration in the second session of Congress." [Congressional Quarterly, 1/6/2014]

Rubio Approved Darrin Gayles To Become “The Nation’s First Black, Openly Gay Man To Serve As A Federal Judge.” According to the Huffington Post: “Florida judicial nominee Darrin Gayles just inched a little closer to becoming the nation’s first black, openly gay man to serve as a federal judge. Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) has given the green light to the Senate Judiciary Committee to proceed with Gayles’ nomination to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, a committee aide confirmed to The Huffington Post on Tuesday. Specifically, Rubio has submitted his ‘blue slip’ to the committee, a crucial step in the confirmation process whereby a senator can unilaterally approve or block a judicial nominee from his or her home state.” [\[Huffing-ton Post, 3/25/2014\]](#)

SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS ON ADOPTION

- **OPPOSED ALLOWING LGBT COUPLES TO ADOPT CHILDREN BECAUSE CHILDREN “SHOULDN’T BE FORCED TO BE PART OF A SOCIAL EXPERIMENT”**

Rubio Spoke Out Against Allowing Same-Sex Couples From Adopting, Saying Children “Shouldn’t Be Forced To Be Part Of A Social Experiment!” According to the Tallahassee Democrat: “The Department of Children and Families is under fire from children’s advocates for allowing foster children to spend the night in a conference room in Tallahassee, but legislative leaders said Wednesday that won’t change their minds about allowing gays to adopt. ‘Some of these kids are the most disadvantaged in the state,’ said House Majority Leader Marco Rubio of West Miami. ‘They shouldn’t be forced to be part of a social experiment.’” [\[Tallahassee Democrat, 4/6/2006\]](#)

SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS ON “DON’T ASK, DON’T TELL”

- **AS A SENATE CANDIDATE, RUBIO CAMPAIGNED ON HIS OPPOSITION TO REPEALING “DON’T ASK, DON’T TELL,” AND OPPOSED ALLOWING LGBT SERVICE MEMBERS TO SERVE OPENLY**
- **LATER SAID HE SUPPORTED KEEPING THE REPEAL OF “DON’T ASK” IN PLACE, AND THAT IT DID NOT UNDERMINE MILITARY READINESS**

2010: Rubio Opposed LGBT People Serving Openly In The Military. According to the St. Petersburg Times: “Republican Marco Rubio, who faces a minor challenger in Tuesday’s primary, is the only candidate who opposes allowing gays to serve openly in the military.” [\[St. Petersburg Times, 8/22/2010\]](#)

- **Rubio Supported Don't Ask Don't Tell Policy.** According to the Miami Herald, on the Don't Ask Don't Tell policy, a Rubio spokesman said the former speaker "supports the current policy and doesn't see any reason for it to change." [[Miami Herald, 5/29/2010](#)]
- **Rubio Opposed Allowing Gays And Lesbians To Openly Serve In The Military.** According to the Palm Beach Post: "Gov. Charlie Crist's U.S. Senate rivals skewered him Friday for saying he'd now support repealing the policy that bars openly gay people from serving in the military – a reversal from what he told reporters on Monday....His Republican and Democratic rivals accused the newly independent Senate candidate of flipping, with Republican Marco Rubio noting Crist's stance 'comes stunningly just three days after telling Florida reporters he saw no need to change the policy.' A spokesman for Rubio said the former state House speaker 'supports the current policy and doesn't see any reason for it to change.'" [[Palm Beach Post, 5/29/2010](#)]

2013: Rubio Said That The Repeal Of Don't Ask Don't Is The Law And That He Did Not "Think It's Undermined Our Military Readiness." In an appearance on CBS This Morning, when asked about opposing the repeal of the military's Don't Ask Don't Tell law, Senator Rubio said, "Well, I'm not – listen, we're not going to change it and I'm not saying we should change it. Ultimately, you know, that's the law now that they've decided. I don't think it's undermined our military readiness. We've debated that and moved on from it. Here's the bottom line. What I've always said on don't ask, don't tell, by the way, is that it's a decision that we should listen to the military commanders on, not the politicians. I believe that's what I've said on that issue." [[CBS This Morning, 2/13/2013; VIDEO](#)]