



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN®

April 29, 2019

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the Human Rights Campaign's more than three million members and supporters nationwide, I write in opposition to the nomination of Robert Destro to serve as Assistant Secretary for Human Rights, Labor and Democracy (DRL). As the nation's largest organization working on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people, we are deeply troubled by his long record of hostility toward LGBTQ people. This record should disqualify him from serving in any role at the U.S. State Department, and particularly one that would oversee our nation's efforts to protect and advance the human rights of LGBTQ people around the globe.

Throughout his career, Mr. Destro has focused a great deal of his writings on rejecting advances for LGBTQ human rights, a position which puts him at odds with the Secretary of State's stated positions "affirming the dignity and equality of all people regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sex characteristics."

He has opposed the Equality Act, which would guarantee nondiscrimination protections in areas such as housing, employment, education and financial services to LGBTQ people domestically, criticized non-discrimination protections that allowed transgender people to use restrooms and other facilities that correspond to their gender identity, called for "trench warfare" with the LGBTQ community, and has suggested that faith could be used as a pretext for discriminatory conduct against LGBTQ people.

He has asked "What exactly is the obligation of someone who doesn't buy" the existence of transgender people? He also asked, "Do people have to treat it as a norm and treat people according to their gender identity?" He has also deliberately and repeatedly misgendered a prominent transgender woman in a public form.

Mr. Destro's record of disrespect toward the LGBTQ community disqualifies him from being appointed to lead our efforts to protect the human rights of LGBTQ people and others around the world. I urge you to oppose his nomination for this position. Please contact Jeremy Kadden of my staff with any questions for more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Stacy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Stacy
Government Affairs Director