

GOP House candidate says AIDS is punishment for sin of homosexuality

By JASON HANCOCK 8/17/10 2:17 PM

When the Bible says homosexuals should be “put to death; their blood shall be upon them,” the blood is really AIDS. Or so says Jeremy Walters, Republican legislative hopeful, in a series of posts on his Facebook.

Walters is running in House District 67 against state Rep. Kevin McCarthy, D-Des Moines, the second highest ranking Democrat in the Iowa House.

From Walters’ Facebook:

Jeremy Walters The Holy Bible say if your "GAY" homosexual they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them. This tells me a lot so should we kill them NO. They Need to ask God to forgive them of their sins and mean it turn away from it. They also need to know that when it says that their blood shall be upon them that tells me it is AIDS. That's how I feel. August 12 at 9:45

Jeremy Walters homosexual "GAY" is not of God!!!! In the Bible it reads; Leviticus 20:13 - King James Bible

If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a women, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them. So the people that don't have God in their life or don't belive in God they are a fool. Only a Fool says there is no God. August 12 at 9:33pm (Jason Bellinger likes this)

On his campaign website, Walters makes no mention of same-sex marriage or gay rights at all, focusing instead on economic issues like property taxes, the estate tax and the state budget, as well as gun rights and education. He has previously run three times in three different legislative districts, most recently losing to Democrat Geri Huser in House District 42 by more than 20 percentage points in 2004 and in the GOP primary in House District 62 in 2008. He later served as a precinct chair for Texas Congressman Ron Paul’s 2008 Iowa Caucus campaign.

There are four times as many registered Democrats than Republicans in HD67, according to the Iowa Secretary of State’s office.

Walters could not be immediately reached for comment.

Iowa GOP denounces controversial comments on AIDS, homosexuality (UPDATED)

By JASON HANCOCK 8/17/10 5:29 PM

Statements by a Republican candidate for the Iowa House that AIDS is punishment for the sin of homosexuality have been officially denounced by Republican Party of Iowa Chairman Matt Strawn.

In a series of posts on his Facebook page, House District 67 candidate Jeremy Walters pointed to passages in the Bible that say homosexuals should be “put to death; their blood shall be upon them.” Walters said the blood is really AIDS. The state’s largest LGBT-rights group, One Iowa, immediately called for the Iowa GOP to disavow the comments.

“Mr. Walters’ comments are inappropriate and in no way represent the beliefs of the Republican Party of Iowa,” Strawn said in a statement to The Iowa Independent. “HIV/AIDS does not discriminate and our hearts and prayers go out to any Iowa family facing this disease.”

Walters told The Des Moines Register that he has no plans to remove the posting from his Facebook page, saying it's only offensive to gay rights advocates, "because they know it's the truth. Truth does hurt." Walters also said he will be meeting people at the Republican Party of Iowa's booth at the Iowa State Fair Thursday from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. It's unclear if Strawn's statement changes those plans.

UPDATE at 6:20 p.m.: Republican Party of Iowa Communications Director Danielle Plogmann says in a statement to The Iowa Independent that Walters will no longer be participating in the party's Iowa State Fair booth.

"We just learned Mr. Walters had previously signed up to work the booth as a Polk County volunteer," she said. "This is no longer the case."

UPDATE at 6:50 p.m.: Despite his assurances that the Facebook statements would not be removed, Walters has taken down the posts referring to homosexuality and AIDS.

GOP candidate apologizes for anti-gay statements

By JASON HANCOCK 8/18/10 8:00 AM

In an e-mail to The Iowa Independent, Republican legislative hopeful Jeremy Walters said he regrets the controversial Facebook postings regarding AIDS being a punishment from God for homosexuality and has removed them from the site.

Walters, who is challenging incumbent Democratic state Rep. Kevin McCarthy of Des Moines in House District 67, last week wrote that when the Bible says homosexuals should be "put to death; their blood shall be upon them," the blood is really AIDS. When the statements were made public they were greeted with outrage by One Iowa, the state's largest LGBT-rights group, and denounced by Republican Party of Iowa Chairman Matt Strawn. When the party later discovered Walters was scheduled to volunteer at the GOP Iowa State Fair booth, his invitation was rescinded.

Despite initially saying he would not remove the postings from his Facebook page, Walters had a change of heart and took them down. He has also changed his privacy settings so that the public can no longer see what he posts.

Walters' statement to The Iowa Independent:

I am not against people having a gay lifestyle, and the statements made on Facebook have been taken the wrong way. The statement regarding gay homosexuality was not meant to be offensive and I deeply apologize.

As far as the quote from Bible; I was replying to someone else's post. It should have been posted as a comment on their page, not my Facebook wall. I apologize for the mistake and if this statement offended anyone. Both postings have been removed and these comments do not pertain to my campaign or the Republican Party of Iowa. My passion is to listen and learn from the people so I can represent them at the statehouse. Everyone makes mistakes, please forgive me.

My emails to reporter Jason Hancock:

Jason reported much of my email. The parts he did *not* use are in *italics*. *The parts which he omitted which were significant, are also in blue.*

8/18/10, 11:15pm

Hi, Jason!

I just happened on to your articles about Republican candidate Jeremy Walters at

<http://iowaindependent.com/41491/gop-candidate-apologizes-for-anti-gay-statements>

Jeremy's statement *may have been* theologically clumsy, but it seemed close enough to Biblical truth to not merit a censure from the Republican party. *GOP head Matt Strawn is right in saying HIV does not discriminate; in other words, the fact that someone has HIV by no means proves they got it through sodomy. But I don't see that that is what Jeremy said.*

Jeremy, perhaps imprecisely, alleged a connection between HIV and sodomy. Romans 1:27 has been for centuries interpreted as making this connection. Everyone knows there is this connection. Everyone knows sodomites suffer it far more than the rest of the population, and that sodomy's practices, which are so embarrassingly unsanitary that you dare not detail them in one of your articles, would inevitably create such a disease if it did not already exist. It seems "inappropriate", to use Strawn's word, to apologize for saying what the Bible says, with which everyone agrees. It is "inappropriate" for anyone to ask such a thing. I am sorry that Jeremy gave up his ground, although at least he stood it for awhile, which is more than most will do.

Whether HIV is a "natural consequence" or a miraculous "judgment of God" is not clear from Romans 1:27. I think the Greek leans towards a natural consequence. One of the reasons sodomy ought to be restrained by law, at least in occupations where the state requires stringent sanitation, is for the sake of the innocent people infected with HIV.

There was an amazing case in America's history that established Freedom of the Press. Did you study it in journalism school? In 1735, the governor of New York, appointed by the king, ordered the arrest of political cartoonist and political newspaper publisher John Peter Zenger for publicly ridiculing the governor. He was charged with libel. Zenger's defense was that what he said was true. The judge would not allow him to present evidence to the jury that it was true, because the judge said that was irrelevant. Whether or not it was true, it was still libel.

Had the trial occurred today we would not have freedom of the press, because today the judge would not have allowed the jury to hear the discussion about whether criticisms could be "libel" even if they were true. Today, the judge would declare what the law said, and that was that. The jury would not be allowed to even know there was an issue raised about it.

But fortunately back then, juries heard all the legal arguments, enabling them to judge the laws as well as the facts, so we have Freedom of the Press. Zenger's Philadelphia lawyer argued to the jury that the truth ought to be a defense against a charge of libel. In other words, any American ought to be free to state the truth.

The censure of Jeremy fuels my concern that we need a modern John Peter Zenger trial, to re-establish what I thought until a few decades ago was settled American law: that evidence that statements are true ought to be a defense against the charge that some immature American has managed to become offended by them.

Remember that Zenger's judge wouldn't let Zenger present evidence that his "libels" against the New York governor were true? How do you suppose he got around that? And how do you suppose a thousand Iowa Jeremies can get around the fact that in public forums like news sources, no Bible-quoting Christian is going to be allowed to present Biblical evidence that what he said is no crazier than God?

Zenger's lawyer dealt with this problem in a way which it is my guess became the origin of our modern term "zinger": he said although he was not allowed to prove Zenger was telling the truth, "suppression of the evidence ought always to be taken as the strongest possible evidence."

For my articles on the subject:

http://www.saltshaker.us/BibleStudies/BenefitsOfSodomyLaws_Adultery.pdf

<http://www.examiner.com/religion-and-politics-in-des-moines/dave-leach>

cc to Matt Strawn, with this note: It is with profound regret that I publicly criticize your criticism of Jeremy Walters for briefly standing with the Word of God. The party has treated me fairly so far, and I hope that will not end as a result of me saying these things. Many times throughout my

political life, I have said what, so far as I can determine after careful study, is true, and important, knowing the cost could be loss of dear friendships. I have always regretted the cost. I pray it will not be too expensive this time.

Dave Leach
4110 SW 9th
Des Moines IA 50315
515/244-3711w, 480-3398 cell

8/19/10 10:24am

Hi! I just want to clarify that my statement was based on Jeremy's statements as reported by you. If he made other statements reported by others, I don't know about them, and my statement may need to be modified to respond to them.

Ugh. I hate making statements that make people angry.

8/19/10 10:35am

From Jason: Has your statement already made someone angry? I was planning to report on it just hadn't yet.

- Jason

8/19/10 10:47am

To Jason: Yours is the first response. I'm just looking ahead. I know there are also people who are gladdened to hear God's principles affirmed, of course. They aren't always as loud, though.

Jason's Article in the Iowa Independent:

<http://iowaindependent.com/41571/anti-gay-statements-didnt-deserve-gop-rebuke-candidate-says>

Anti-gay statements didn't deserve rebuke from GOP, candidate says



By JASON HANCOCK 8/19/10 2:20 PM

Republican state Senate hopeful Dave Leach, who has garnered headlines over the past year due to his close relationship with the man convicted of murdering Kansas abortion provider George Tiller, says the Republican Party of Iowa erred when it denounced a state House candidate who called AIDS a

punishment from God for homosexuality.

Jeremy Walters, who is challenging incumbent Democratic state Rep. Kevin McCarthy of Des Moines in House District 67, last week wrote that when the Bible says homosexuals should be “put to death; their blood shall be upon them,” the blood is really AIDS. When the statements were made public they were greeted with outrage by One Iowa, the state’s largest LGBT-rights group, and denounced by Republican Party of Iowa Chairman Matt Strawn. When the party later discovered Walters was scheduled to volunteer at the GOP Iowa State Fair booth, his invitation was rescinded.

Walters eventually apologized for the postings and removed them from Facebook.

Leach, who is running against Democratic state Sen. Matt McCoy in Senate District 31, said Walters statement was “theologically clumsy, but it seemed close enough to Biblical truth to not merit a censure from the Republican Party.”

“GOP head Matt Strawn is right in saying HIV does not discriminate; in other words, the fact that someone has HIV by no means proves they got it through sodomy,” Leach said in an e-mail to Strawn and The Iowa Independent. “But I don’t see that that is what Jeremy said.”

Whether the Bible says there is a connection shouldn’t matter, he said, “everyone knows there is this connection.”

(In box:) Everyone knows sodomites suffer [HIV/AIDS] far more than the rest of the population, and that sodomy’s practices, which are so embarrassingly unsanitary that you dare not detail them in one of your articles, would inevitably create such a disease if it did not already exist. It seems “inappropriate,” to use Strawn’s word, to apologize for saying what the Bible says, with which everyone agrees. It is “inappropriate” for anyone to ask such a thing. I am sorry that Jeremy gave up his ground, although at least he stood it for awhile, which is more than most will do.

Leach publishes a newsletter called “Prayer & Action News,” which advocates the doctrine of justifiable homicide in the case of abortion doctors. One of its contributors was Scott Roeder, the man convicted of murdering Kansas abortion provider George Tiller last year. Leach drafted a legal brief on Roeder’s behalf arguing the necessity defense, helped organize a fundraiser for his legal fees, regularly attended his murder trial and conducted an in-depth interview with him after his conviction in February. Leach testified as a character witness for Roeder during his sentencing.

In his e-mail to Strawn and The Iowa Independent, Leach said he has “profound regret” about publicly criticizing the state GOP, since: “The party has treated me fairly so far, and I hope that will not end as a result of me saying these things.”

“Many times throughout my political life, I have said what, so far as I can determine after careful study, is true, and important, knowing the cost could be loss of dear friendships,” Leach wrote. “I have always regretted the cost. I pray it will not be too expensive this time.”

Comments after Jason’s article about me:

RegularJoe 1 day ago

What a sick, sad man Leach must be.

rextrek1 and 8 more liked this

weshlovrcm 1 day ago

“...nor revilers...will inherit the kingdom of God.” (1 Corinthians 6:10)

David and 1 more liked this

weshlovrcm 3 hours ago

The problem with these angry, incendiary comments coming from a "Christian" is that the Bible clearly tell us that revilers are going to hell. One cannot have it both ways. You cannot attack and revile

others yet claim to be a "Christian." Such logic is morally bankrupt and only results in tearing our country further apart.

“...nor revilers...will inherit the kingdom of God.” (1 Corinthians 6:10)

Dave Leach:

That is an extremely interesting argument! The reference is to: 1Corinthians 6:9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor EFFEMINATE, NOR ABUSERS OF THEMSELVES WITH MANKIND, [Gr: "sodomite", according to Strong's] 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor REVILERS, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

In other words, the same passage which warns of eternal destruction for sodomy, warns of it for "reviling". Which raises the question, what or who is a "reviler"? May we draft our own criteria, or shall we use God's? Do you think a discussion of what the Bible says is "reviling", by God's criteria, and deserving of Hell?

rextrek1 9 hours ago in reply to Dave Leach

hey nitwit..you do realize that SODOMY is all sex that is not MISSIONARY position..right? So..the next time you get Oral from a hooker/or your wife/or gfits sodomy. 4 people liked this

rextrek1 13 hours ago

the GOP asswipes don't realize we do NOT live in a Theocracy,right? Wow- their stupidity is endless.

David and 4 more liked this

Patrick 8 hours ago

SO I guess all those millions of non gay people who have HIV deserve what they got too, seeing that HIV/AIDS started in Africa by straight people in the early 70's. In fact the first case has even been reported even before the 70's. Read your history before you start spewing your "religious" fear and propaganda. 3 people liked this.

Joe Marrazzo 6 hours ago

That hat is quite possibly the GAYEST thing I've ever seen. 1 person liked this.

Dave Leach 0 minutes ago

It cannot help but make me more confident of the facts I state, that none of them are challenged or even addressed. As for a "theocracy", interesting word. "the rule of a state by God." Since even with Israel, God ruled through men, what is the difference between that "theocracy" and America at its founding where men studied the Word of God for guidance in shaping laws? New Agers claim to be "gods". So when they are elected are we a "theocracy"? You can't legislate anything BUT morality, since all law is someone's notion of what is right and wrong.| Glad you like the hat.

3 days later, August 23, no more comments had been added.

Secondary Articles

<http://jonathan-cunningham.tumblr.com/post/902953928/i-am-running-against-iowas-chief-sodomite>

TUMBLE DC 25

I am running against Iowa's chief sodomite.

Dave Leach- Iowa's chief asshole

Posted on August 4, 2010 with 8 notes

1. uglycunt liked this
2. smokinwithjesus liked this
3. silver-age liked this
4. mitochondrion liked this
5. thatbridgeisonfire liked this
6. therodentqueen liked this
7. atheistramblings liked this
8. cutenonsequitur reblogged this from jonathan-cunningham
9. jonathan-cunningham posted this

http://regator.com/p/244204742/iowa_gop_condemns_republican_candidate_jeremy_walters_for/

Iowa GOP Condemns Republican Candidate Jeremy Walters for Saying AIDS is Punishment for Sin of Homosexuality

<http://www.oneiowa.org/news-events/state-senate-candidate-defends-anti-gay-remarks-rebuked-iowa-gop>

Mission: One Iowa, the state's largest LGBT advocacy organization...

State Senate Candidate Defends Anti-Gay Remarks, Rebukes Iowa GOP

An update to Tuesday's story about Jeremy Walters, the GOP candidate for Iowa Statehouse who claimed AIDS is punishment for homosexuality. The Iowa Republican Party condemned his remarks that evening, but now Dave Leach, an Iowa State Senate candidate has come to his defense and is criticizing the Party for distancing themselves from Walters. The Iowa Independent has his remarks:

Everyone knows sodomites suffer [HIV/AIDS] far more than the rest of the population, and that sodomy's practices, which are so embarrassingly unsanitary that you dare not detail them in one of your articles, would inevitably create such a disease if it did not already exist. It seems "inappropriate," to use Strawn's word, to apologize for saying what the Bible says, with which everyone agrees. It is "inappropriate" for anyone to ask such a thing. I am sorry that Jeremy gave up his ground, although at least he stood it for awhile, which is more than most will do.

In light of Dave Leach's involvement in the violent anti-choice movement and his defense of Scott Roeder, assassin of Kansas abortion provider George Tiller, One Iowa's Executive Director issued the following statement:

"Considering Leach's background and his most recent statements, we're beginning to see a disturbing pattern of Iowa GOP candidates who use violent rhetoric and misinformation as a political weapon," said One Iowa Executive Director Carolyn Jenison. "These remarks fan the flames of bigotry and hatred and they have no place in our civic dialogue."

Carolea35 5 hours ago

Yes, David Leach's crackpot comments have been around for a long time. It would be laughable, except there will be a few people who believe him. Why, I don't know. One couldn't be more ignorant, except for Vander Plaats.

David 2 days ago

Unfortunately, I knew Mr. Leach as a fellow student in college 40+ years ago; he was as out of touch with reality then as he is now; it is so sad, and frightening that he is still preaching this kind of hate and violence.

Steve 2 days ago

Ok, I live in Texas, and I thought our republican party was full of idiots who twist the words from the Bible to make ridiculous statements . . . and do so with a holier than thou attitude that you would think they actually wrote the Bible themselves.

But, I feel sorry for Iowa if any of their republican candidates get elected or reelected. Anyone who would wear a hat like that is down right scary!

Talk about wearing your religion on your sleeve! Where is the separation between church and state with this guy.

Sorry Iowa, but if you elect this guy to the State Senate . . .

<http://www.topix.com/state/ia-gov/2010/08/anti-gay-statements-didna-t-deserve-rebuke-from-gop-candidate-says>

Thursday | Posted by: roboblogger

Anti-gay statements didna t deserve rebuke from GOP, candidate says

Full story: Iowa Independent

Republican state Senate hopeful Dave Leach , who has garnered headlines over the past year due to his close relationship with the man convicted of murdering Kansas abortion provider George Tiller , says the Republican Party of Iowa erred when it denounced a state House candidate who called AIDS a punishment from God for homosexuality.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2010/08/19/all-125-legislative-races-revisited/>

Senate District 31

“Right to life” activist Dave Leach, who had nice stuff to say about the murderer of Dr. George Tiller, filed on the GOP side to challenge Sen. Matt McCoy (D-Des Moines), the only openly gay Iowa legislator. McCoy won handily in 2006; expect Leach to be pretty much on his own without a lot of party backing. Also expect at least one headline’s worth of ugly before Election Day. (Update: That didn’t take long.)

<http://iowaindependent.com/41625/gay-rights-group-disturbing-pattern-of-violent-rhetoric-within-iowa-gop>

Gay-rights group: Disturbing pattern of violent rhetoric emerging in Iowa GOP

By JASON HANCOCK 8/19/10 4:45 PM

Statements by a Republican legislative candidate about AIDS being God’s punishment for homosexuality, and a defense of those statements by an anti-abortion activists running for the state Senate, are a disturbing indicator of the state of Republican politics, according to the leader of the state’s largest LGBT-rights organization.

Jeremy Walters, who is running for the Iowa House in district 67, sparked outrage when he posted anti-gay statements on his Facebook page. After he was denounced by Republican Party of Iowa Chairman Matt Strawn, Walters apologized and took down the posts. But Dave Leach, a Republican

candidate best known for his close relationship with the man convicted of murdering Kansas abortion provider George Tiller, criticized the GOP for abandoning Walters for simply telling the truth.

“Considering Leach’s background and his most recent statements, we’re beginning to see a disturbing pattern of Iowa GOP candidates who use violent rhetoric and misinformation as a political weapon,” said One Iowa Executive Director Carolyn Jenison. “These remarks fan the flames of bigotry and hatred and they have no place in our civic dialogue.”

Leach is running against state Sen. Matt McCoy, who is openly gay. At a recent anti-gay marriage rally in Des Moines, Leach referred to McCoy as “Iowa’s chief sodomite.” Leach publishes a newsletter called “Prayer & Action News,” which advocates the doctrine of justifiable homicide in the case of abortion doctors.

As for Walters, after apologizing and removing the Facebook postings, he did an interview with the liberal blog Think Progress where he said he is still unsure whether AIDS is in fact a punishment from God for homosexuality. On his Facebook page, Walters lamented being ostracized by the Iowa GOP, saying “I am ban from any events that the Republican party puts on, so now what?” In addition to the party rescinding his invitation to volunteer at the GOP booth at the Iowa State Fair, Walters said he is also banned from the Republican Party of Polk County’s upcoming event featuring Steve Forbes.

<http://jontrouten.blogspot.com/2010/08/iowa-gop-aids-gay-plague.html>

THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2010

Iowa GOP: AIDS = Gay Plague?

It's been an interesting week for state GOP politics and it all started up on Facebook. House Representative candidate and GOP ticket holder Jeremy Walters started out the week expressing his thoughts on the Bible, homosexuality, and AIDS. More specifically, he believe that AIDS was prophesied in the Bible as God's punishment for gay people, according to what's written in Leviticus (presumably gay men, since lesbians appears to be least likely to catch the disease):

(The quotes from Facebook were inserted here)

Walters' statements were quickly repudiated by One Iowa's executive director, Carolyn Jenison. "Jeremy Walters' comments are offensive and they have no place in this year's election. We call on the Republican Party of Iowa to denounce Walters' comments immediately. HIV/AIDS is an epidemic that does not discriminate. It's a matter of life and death for many Iowans."

Surprisingly, Matt Strawn, the Republican Party of Iowa's chairman, agreed with Jenison and issued the following statement: "Mr. Walters' comments are inappropriate and in no way represent the beliefs of the Republican Party of Iowa... HIV/AIDS does not discriminate and our hearts and prayers go out to any Iowa family facing this disease." Within an hour of that statement, Republican Party of Iowa communications director Danielle Plogmann communicated: "We just learned Mr. Walters had previously signed up to work the booth as a Polk County volunteer (at the Iowa State Fair booth)... This is no longer the case."

Within a half-hour of that, despite earlier assertions that the Facebook statements were absolutely never coming down, Walters took down his status updates with the following comment:

I am not against people having a gay lifestyle, and the statements made on Facebook have been taken the wrong way. The statement regarding gay homosexuality was not meant to be offensive and I deeply apologize.

As far as the quote from Bible; I was replying to someone elses post. It should have been posted as a comment on their page, not my Facebook wall. I appologize for the mistake and if this statement offened anyone. Both postings have been removed and these comments do not pertain to my campaign

or the Republican Party of Iowa. My passion is to listen and learn from the people so I can represent them at the statehouse. Everyone makes mistakes, please forgive me.

Now color me surprised, but who'd've think that the Iowa GOP, after a year and a half of gay-baiting, would make a positive statement for people with HIV/AIDS or that a Republican candidate could get shamed into half-heartedly apologizing to gay people and admitting that, if elected, he'd actually be representing gay constituents and people who came about them?

Thankfully, my shock was short-lived and reality reared its ugly head. Earlier today, GOP state Senate hopeful, Dave Leach, spoke about against the Republican Party of Iowa for publicly spanking Walters:

Everyone knows sodomites suffer [HIV/AIDS] far more than the rest of the population, and that sodomy's practices, which are so embarrassingly unsanitary that you dare not detail them in one of your articles, would inevitably create such a disease if it did not already exist. It seems "inappropriate," to use Strawn's word, to apologize for saying what the Bible says, with which everyone agrees. It is "inappropriate" for anyone to ask such a thing. I am sorry that Jeremy gave up his ground, although at least he stood it for awhile, which is more than most will do.

Leach found Walters' statements about gay blood and AIDS as God's punishment to be "theologically clumsy, but it seemed close enough to Biblical truth to not merit a censure from the Republican Party."

Maybe it's true that AIDS is actually some sort of blood born disease created on Earth through God's intervention as means for punishing gay men. If true, why aren't lesbians as susceptible to the disease of gay men or straight people? Also, why did it take nearly 2000 years for the disease to really get moving? And how come uninfected gay men cannot infect other uninfected gay men? I've had plenty of opportunities to get infected from my husband and yet 16 years have gone by and we're both still HIV negative. If gay marriage is such an evil institution, you would think that God would have come up with some sort of spontaneous runaround virus by now.

The truth is that AIDS is just a virus that got spread around by a population of men who didn't understand its existence until it was too late. There are a few ways to reduce infection: 1. Remain sexually abstinent. 2. Refrain from sexually risky behaviors and use condoms and other barriers during riskier sexual practices. 3. Assume that your sexual partners are HIV positive until you know better (and then continue with that assumption). 4. Maintain a sexually monogamous relationship with someone that you know if HIV negative. 5. Don't share needles with anyone else.

Nothing is absolute, but nobody is condemned to becoming infected. No matter what they believe about God or gays.

Posted by Jon Troutenat Thursday, August 19, 2010

[http://www.towleroad.com/2010/08/citing-biblical-truth-iowa-gop-senate-candidate-dave-leach-agrees-that-aids-is-gods-punishment-for-h.html?](http://www.towleroad.com/2010/08/citing-biblical-truth-iowa-gop-senate-candidate-dave-leach-agrees-that-aids-is-gods-punishment-for-h.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+towleroad+(Towleroad))

utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+towleroad+(Towleroad)

CITING 'BIBLICAL TRUTH', IOWA GOP SENATE CANDIDATE DAVE LEACH AGREES THAT AIDS IS GOD'S PUNISHMENT FOR HOMOSEXUALITY

Earlier in the week Iowa GOP Congressional candidate Jeremy Walters apologized for remarks written on his Facebook page saying that AIDS is God's punishment for homosexuality.

Republican Party of Iowa Chairman Matt Strawn denounced Walters.

Yesterday, Dave Leach, a GOP candidate for the state senate there, came to Walters' defense, the Iowa Independent reports:

Leach, who is running against Democratic state Sen. Matt McCoy in Senate District 31, said Walters statement was 'theologically clumsy, but it seemed close enough to Biblical truth to not merit a censure from the Republican Party.' ... 'GOP head Matt Strawn is right in saying HIV does not discriminate; in other words, the fact that someone has HIV by no means proves they got it through

sodomy,' Leach said in an e-mail to Strawn and The Iowa Independent. 'But I don't see that that is what Jeremy said.' Whether the Bible says there is a connection shouldn't matter, he said, since, 'everyone knows there is this connection.'"

Said Leach:

"Everyone knows sodomites suffer [HIV/AIDS] far more than the rest of the population, and that sodomy's practices, which are so embarrassingly unsanitary that you dare not detail them in one of your articles, would inevitably create such a disease if it did not already exist. It seems 'inappropriate,' to use Strawn's word, to apologize for saying what the Bible says, with which everyone agrees. It is 'inappropriate' for anyone to ask such a thing. I am sorry that Jeremy gave up his ground, although at least he stood it for awhile, which is more than most will do."

And on a side note — that hat. Seriously?

http://regator.com/p/244353847/citing_biblical_truth_iowa_gop_senate_candidate_dave/

Citing 'Biblical Truth', Iowa GOP Senate Candidate Dave Leach Agrees That AIDS is God's Punishment for Homosexuality

2 days ago Sexuality / Gay : Towleroad

Earlier in the week Iowa GOP Congressional candidate Jeremy Walters apologized for remarks written on his Facebook page saying that AIDS is God's punishment for homosexuality. Republican Party of Iowa Chairman Matt Strawn denounced Walters. Yesterday, Dave Leach, a GOP...

<http://mlb.msg.com/article/08VC0jg93x1ka?q=HIV/AIDS>

TOWLEROAD 2 DAYS AGO

CITING 'BIBLICAL TRUTH', IOWA GOP SENATE CANDIDATE DAVE LEACH AGREES THAT AIDS IS GOD'S PUNISHMENT FOR HOMOSEXUALITY

"Everyone knows sodomites suffer [HIV/AIDS] far more than the rest of the population, and that sodomy's practices, which are so embarrassingly unsanitary that you dare not detail them in one of your articles, would inevitably create such a disease if... FULL ARTICLE AT TOWLEROAD

Citing 'Biblical Truth', Iowa GOP Senate Candidate Dave Leach Agrees That AIDS is God's Punishment for Homosexuality

2 DAYS AGO

"Everyone knows sodomites suffer [HIV/AIDS] far more than the rest of the population, and that sodomy's practices, which are so embarrassingly unsanitary that you dare not detail them in one of your articles, would inevitably create such a disease if... FULL ARTICLE AT TOWLEROAD

Anti-gay statements didn't deserve rebuke from GOP, candidate says

3 DAYS AGO

Everyone knows sodomites suffer [HIV/AIDS] far more than the rest of the population, and that sodomy's practices, which are so embarrassingly unsanitary that you dare not detail them in one of your articles, would inevitably create such a disease if it... FULL ARTICLE AT IOWA INDEPENDENT

<http://www.allvoices.com/news/6569755-citing-biblical-truth-iowa-gop-senate-candidate-dave-leach-agrees-that-aids-is-gods-punishment-for-homosexuality>

Citing 'Biblical Truth', Iowa GOP Senate Candidate Dave Leach Agrees That AIDS is God's Punishment for Homosexuality

Republican Party of Iowa Chairman Matt Strawn denounced Walters...It seems 'inappropriate,' to use Strawn's word, to apologize for saying what the Bible says, with which everyone agrees...I am

sorry that Jeremy gave up his ground, although at least he stood it for awhile, which is more than most will... FULL ARTICLE AT TOWLEROAD

<http://www.towleroad.com/2010/08/citing-biblical-truth-iowa-gop-senate-candidate-dave-leach-agrees-that-aids-is-gods-punishment-for-h.html>

CITING 'BIBLICAL TRUTH', IOWA GOP SENATE CANDIDATE DAVE LEACH AGREES THAT AIDS IS GOD'S PUNISHMENT FOR HOMOSEXUALITY

Earlier in the week Iowa GOP Congressional candidate Jeremy Walters apologized for remarks written on his Facebook page saying that AIDS is God's punishment for homosexuality.

Republican Party of Iowa Chairman Matt Strawn denounced Walters.

Yesterday, Dave Leach, a GOP candidate for the state senate there, came to Walters' defense, the Iowa Independent reports:

Leach, who is running against Democratic state Sen. Matt McCoy in Senate District 31, said Walters statement was 'theologically clumsy, but it seemed close enough to Biblical truth to not merit a censure from the Republican Party.' ... 'GOP head Matt Strawn is right in saying HIV does not discriminate; in other words, the fact that someone has HIV by no means proves they got it through sodomy,' Leach said in an e-mail to Strawn and The Iowa Independent. 'But I don't see that that is what Jeremy said.' Whether the Bible says there is a connection shouldn't matter, he said, since, 'everyone knows there is this connection.'"

Said Leach:

"Everyone knows sodomites suffer [HIV/AIDS] far more than the rest of the population, and that sodomy's practices, which are so embarrassingly unsanitary that you dare not detail them in one of your articles, would inevitably create such a disease if it did not already exist. It seems 'inappropriate,' to use Strawn's word, to apologize for saying what the Bible says, with which everyone agrees. It is 'inappropriate' for anyone to ask such a thing. I am sorry that Jeremy gave up his ground, although at least he stood it for awhile, which is more than most will do."

And on a side note — that hat. Seriously?

Friday, August 20, 2010 <http://ishouldbeloathing.blogspot.com/2010/08/jeremy-walters-has-fan.html>

Jeremy Walters Has A Fan

So, yesterday I wrote about Iowa Republican wngnut Jeremy Walters who had posted on his Facebook that old anti-gay-homo-hatin' chestnut that AIDS is a punishment from God for being gay [see post [HERE](#)].

Well, One Iowa, the largest LGBT group in the state, rebuked Walters, as did, believe it or not, the Iowa Republican Party. Kinda makes me love Iowa even more, with, you know farmhands and marriage equality and stuff, but I digress.

Justin Uebelhor, Director of Communications for One Iowa, sent me an email, telling me about another GOP candidate for office in Iowa, who has come to Jeremy Walters' defense.

Republican state Senate hopeful Dave Leach says the Iowa GOP was wrong to denounce Walters for his bigoted, misinformed, homophobic statements. Leach announced that, while Walters statement was "theologically clumsy, it was close enough to Biblical truth to not merit a censure from the Republican Party."

Oh yes he did.

He actually said:

Everyone knows sodomites suffer [HIV/AIDS] far more than the rest of the population, and that sodomy's practices, which are so embarrassingly unsanitary that you dare not detail them in one of your articles, would inevitably create such a disease if it did not already exist. It seems "inappropriate,"


to use Strawn's word, to apologize for saying what the Bible says, with which everyone agrees. It is "inappropriate" for anyone to ask such a thing. I am sorry that Jeremy gave up his ground, although at least he stood it for awhile, which is more than most will do.

Sickening, I know. But what can one expect from a man who has a close relationship with Scott Roeder, the man convicted of murdering Kansas abortion provider George Tiller; what can one expect from a man like Dave Leach, who publishes a newsletter called "Prayer & Action News," which advocates the doctrine of justifiable homicide in the case of abortion doctors.

Leach drafted a legal brief on Roeder's behalf arguing the "necessity" defense, helped to organize a fundraiser for Roeder's legal fees, and was a regular attendee at Roeder's murder trial. In fact, Dave Leach testified as a character witness for Scott Roeder; a character witness for a murderer.

And now he's mad that Jeremy Walters is in trouble with the party.

Iowa, I still love you for being a pro-marriage equality state, but I hope you'll do the right thing come election day and tell Dave Leach and Jeremy Walters where they can take their hate speech, homophobia, lies, and justification for murder, and shove them.

Posted by Bob at 1:30 PM 

Labels: Dave Leach, Discrimination, Dr. George Tiller, Iowa, Jeremy Walters, LGBT, Murder, One Iowa

<http://www.dlcc.org/node/2035>

UPDATE: More "Bad Attention" and More Hateful Smears from Iowa Republicans

Another Republican running for state office has weighed in on Jeremy Walters' reprehensible comments.

Dave Leach, who is running for Iowa state Senate, says that the Republican Party of Iowa erred in denouncing Walters for claiming that AIDS is a punishment from God for homosexuality.

The Iowa Independent has the latest:

Leach, who is running against Democratic state Sen. Matt McCoy in Senate District 31, said Walters statement was "theologically clumsy, but it seemed close enough to Biblical truth to not merit a censure from the Republican Party."

"GOP head Matt Strawn is right in saying HIV does not discriminate; in other words, the fact that someone has HIV by no means proves they got it through sodomy," Leach said in an e-mail to Strawn and The Iowa Independent. "But I don't see that that is what Jeremy said."

Whether the Bible says there is a connection shouldn't matter, he said, since, "everyone knows there is this connection."

From Leach's email:

Everyone knows sodomites suffer [HIV/AIDS] far more than the rest of the population, and that sodomy's practices, which are so embarrassingly unsanitary that you dare not detail them in one of your articles, would inevitably create such a disease if it did not already exist. It seems "inappropriate," to use Strawn's word, to apologize for saying what the Bible says, with which everyone agrees. It is "inappropriate" for anyone to ask such a thing. I am sorry that Jeremy gave up his ground, although at least he stood it for awhile, which is more than most will do.

You can learn more about Iowa state Sen. Matt McCoy, the Democrat Leach hopes to unseat this fall, here.

Leach recently directed his inflammatory rhetoric directly at Sen. McCoy. At a rally staged by the National Organization for Marriage at the beginning of August, Leach handed out campaign fliers and told The Iowa Independent, "I am running against Iowa's chief sodomite."

One Iowa is expressing concern over the increasingly violent rhetoric emerging in the Iowa GOP.

"Considering Leach's background and his most recent statements, we're beginning to see a

disturbing pattern of Iowa GOP candidates who use violent rhetoric and misinformation as a political weapon,” said One Iowa Executive Director Carolyn Jenison. “These remarks fan the flames of bigotry and hatred and they have no place in our civic dialogue.”

Tags: GOP misdeeds, Iowa, LGBT

<http://aguynamedbrian.blogspot.com/2010/08/dr-laura-schlessinger-dines-with-blacks.html>

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 2010

Dr. Laura Schlessinger Dines With Blacks And Gays But Does Not Support Full Equality For Gays, Iowa Radio Host Deems Homosexuality Intrinsicly Promiscuous And Argues Gay Marriage Is About Gaining Access To Taxpayers, Iowa Republican Senate Candidate Spews Anti-Gay Rhetoric And Suggests Gay Practices Are Embarrassingly Unsanitary

Dr. Laura Schlessinger caught in controversy on-air last week when she repeatedly said the N-word to prove a point – although that point was never made clear – announced this week that by December, she would end the current incarnation of her long-running radio show. In an odd interview with The Hollywood Reporter, she makes mention of going “out to dinner with three friends after Larry King. One of my friends who is gay is sitting there with another friend who is black, and he looks up and says, ‘I wonder what the media would do with this? You’re with a black guy and a gay guy.’ We all laughed, because we all understand what this is really about – censoring a point of view.” The good doctor also clarifies she never called homosexuality a “biological error,” Schlessinger saying that “gays and lesbians have as much compassion, intelligence, ability, warmth as anybody else, the inability to sexually match up male and female is a biological error. That’s it. I didn’t say people were a biological error. I said male parts and female parts make babies. I was talking biologically. The interesting thing is that gay groups have made the point that it’s not a moral issue, it’s a biological issue. I was really supporting their point of view.” Schlessinger does not, however, support gay marriage, saying “I just feel marriage is a sacred situation between a man and a woman. But I’m all for domestic partnerships.”

Matt Strawn, the Iowa Chairman of the Republican Party censured GOP state House candidate Jeremy Walters for posting comments on his Facebook page that argued AIDS was a Biblical punishment for homosexuality, Strawn adding that the Walters’s statement are in no way reflective of the Republican Party and the GOP beliefs and that HIV/AIDS does not discriminate. Walters too, apologized, but Thursday Iowa radio host Jan Mickelson on his WHO-AM program said “For the chairman of the Republican Party to say ‘AIDS doesn’t discriminate,’ well of course it does. It discriminates against people who engage in stupid behaviour.” He added that God does not directly punish homosexuals, but that disobeying God’s laws or natural law, which “also applies to sexual disorders” are self-enforcing, akin to skydiving without a parachute. When a caller then argued that it is promiscuity that increases the risk of AIDS, and that therefore Mickleson should support legalizing gay marriage, he disagreed, saying the promiscuity “defines the lifestyle,” adding that “homosexuality is intrinsicly promiscuous, because it violates the design of our bodies. There is no safe way to do that. The marriage license is not relevant to promiscuity amongst the gay population. It is designed to do one thing, and that is to get access to the back pockets of the taxpayers. This is about the Benjamins. Not about the institution.”

Republican state Senate candidate Dave Leach (an advocate of killing abortion providers) weighs in on the Jeremy Walters comments, in an email addressed to the Iowa Independent, he says that “GOP head Matt Strawn is right in saying HIV does not discriminate; in other words, the fact that someone has HIV by no means proves they got it through sodomy.” Leach then bewilderingly adds that “everyone knows sodomites suffer (HIV/AIDS) far more than the rest of the population, and that sodomy’s practices, which are so embarrassingly unsanitary that you dare not detail them in one your articles, would inevitably create such a disease if it did not already exist. It seems ‘inappropriate,’ to use Strawn’s word, to apologize for saying what the Bible says, with which everyone agrees. It is ‘inappropriate’ for anyone to ask such a thing. I am sorry Jeremy gave up his ground, although at least

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POSTED BY BRIAN AT 12:53 PM

LABELS: DR. LAURA SCHLESSINGER, GAY
MARRIAGE, HIV/AIDS, HOMOPHOBIA, IOWA

<http://mwnyasatimesbnl.com/3007qf/citing-biblical-truth-iowa-gop-senate-candidate-da.htm>

Citing 'Biblical Truth', Iowa GOP Senate Candidate Dave Leach Agrees That AIDS is God's Punishment for Homosexuality

1. Home - Politics - Citing 'Biblical Truth', Iowa GOP Senate Candidate Dave Leach Agrees That AIDS is God's Punishment for Homosexuality

Discovered: 2010-08-20 12:03:24 | Author: | Source: TowleRoad

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"Ev... ..

<http://theragingqueen.darknessdreams.net/?p=21712>

The Raging Queen, a Twitter Archive

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This entry was posted on Friday, August 20th, 2010 at 9:57 am and is filed under Uncategorized. You can follow any responses to this entry through the RSS 2.0 feed. Both comments and pings are currently closed.

<http://friendfeed.com/hivpl/0c7f6ee5/citing-biblical-truth-iowa-gop-senate>

hivpl

Citing 'Biblical Truth', Iowa GOP Senate Candidate Dave Leach Agrees That AIDS is God's Punishment for Homosexuality -<http://thetea.typepad.com/the-tea...>

Friday from Icerocket blog search: aids - Comment - Like - Share

Earlier in the week Iowa GOP Congressional candidate Jeremy Walters apologized for remarks written on his Facebook page saying that AIDS is God's punishment for homosexuality. via www.towleroad.com - hivpl

<http://www.connexion.org/gay-news/news?id=693511>

Iowa Radio Host Jan Mickelson: 'Homosexuality is Intrinsically Promiscuous' and AIDS is God's 'Invention' to Punish It

(The Google link took me to this page, but apparently the slam against me had been replaced by a slam against Jan Mickelson for saying more than I said!)

<http://towleroad.typepad.com/2010/08/18/page/2/>

Towleroad: A Site with Homosexual Tendencies Page 4

- Iowa Radio Host Jan Mickelson: 'Homosexuality is Intrinsicly Promiscuous' and AIDS is God's 'Invention' to Punish It
- Citing 'Biblical Truth', Iowa GOP Senate Candidate Dave Leach Agrees That AIDS is God's Punishment for Homosexuality

<http://www.healtharticlecenter.com/topic/citing-39biblical-truth39-iowa-gop-senate-candidate-dave-leach.html>

(The summary on another page said the article would show the disease connection is not true, but the article page was blank. Maybe they're still working on how to write such a defense that doesn't sound ridiculous.)

<http://theragingqueen.darknessdreams.net/?p=21774>

RTV @tldr: Citing 'Biblical Truth', Iowa GOP Senate Candidate Dave Leach Agrees That AIDS is God's Punishment for ...<http://bit.ly/ala9KO> #

<http://harrypottering.com/gossip/Citing-Biblical-Truth-Iowa-GOP-Senate-Candidate-Dave-Leach-Agrees-That-AIDS-is-Gods-Punishment-for-Homosexuality-5413420.html>

Citing 'Biblical Truth', Iowa GOP Senate Candidate Dave Leach Agrees That AIDS is God's Punishment for Homosexuality

Towleroad / 1day 20hrs ago

<http://americanidolizing.com/gossip/We-need-3000-more-signatures-3348451.html>

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