



Give the People Light and they will find their own way.

The Wisconsin Light

Herb Kohl Votes For Anti-Gay Education Amendment

Joins Jesse Helms and 61 Other Senators; Russ Feingold opposes Bill



Becky Furmann

Daddy and Papa Fill Becky's Life with Love But Crypto Leaves Behind Daily Pain

By Sue Burke

Little Becky Furmann seems to have recovered from cryptosporidium.

One of five children with AIDS afflicted by chronic cryptosporidium in 1993, only Becky is still alive--somehow. Doctors have no cure for the digestive tract parasite, but the bug has disappeared from her stool.

Her Daddy, Ric Furmann, says, "I think she found out it was killing her and I think, whether it was conscious or unconscious, she turned her body on to kill the crypto cells after a year and a half."

Her Papa, Larry Furmann, says, "There's a church full of people that believe that because of prayer she got healed."

A blonde gregarious whirlwind almost 4 years-old, Becky calls out a cheery "Hi" to visitors and asks them to hold her dolls.

One doll, Main Line Linda, has an intravenous line going into her chest just like Becky. Becky got the doll from the nurses at Children's Hospital so she could take care of it. Becky shows where she put a Band-Aid over an "owie" Linda got on her arm the night before.

The intravenous line and everything that goes into it, on both Linda and Becky, is

named "Fred." With a name, Ric explained, it's not so scary. There's Big Fred, a nightly bag of nutrition. There's Little Fred, Preemie Fred, Green Fred, Pink Fred, and when she needs pain medicine, there's "giving Fred a drink" of morphine.

Two of the four children who died of crypto were Becky's friends. Crypto damaged her pancreas and gall bladder, which causes the pain and for a while turned her as green as Palmolive dish detergent, Ric and Larry explain. They're trying to help her start eating again now that she's through throwing up.

During dinner preparations, Becky stumbles and bumps her arm. She squeals and points. "It hurts. Here and here." She gets a kiss from Daddy as he walks by. That is not enough. "On my arm. Here and here." Daddy offers kisses and sympathy. "And here. Here." More kisses. Finally, she points to her wrist. "Here. You missed a spot." One more kiss.

"Are you happy now?" Daddy asks.

"Yes, I'm happy," she says with certainty.

The family starts dinner with a prayer. Becky, served at a Sesame Street placemat, fusses with her food for a while, but eats only

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(Washington, D.C.)- Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) again used the Senate floor as a stage for political Gay-bashing on Monday, August 1, 1994, by proposing an amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act that would ban federal funds to be used by schools that "carry out a program or activity that has either the purpose or effect of encouraging or supporting homosexuality as a positive lifestyle alternative."

The amendment was introduced and co-sponsored by Senator Bob Smith (R-NH). The amendment passed the Senate on a 63-36 vote.

The Helms/Smith amendment would cut off funds whether or not federal funds were directly spent on the programs targeted by Helms.

The amendment would cover the distribution of instructional materials as well as referral of students to outside organizations.

Programs likely to be affected would include suicide prevention counseling for youth, AIDS prevention programs or curricula recognizing the existence of Gay families.

Wisconsin's Democratic Senators split on the vote. Herb Kohl voted for the Helms amendment.

Russ Feingold voted against the Helms amendment.

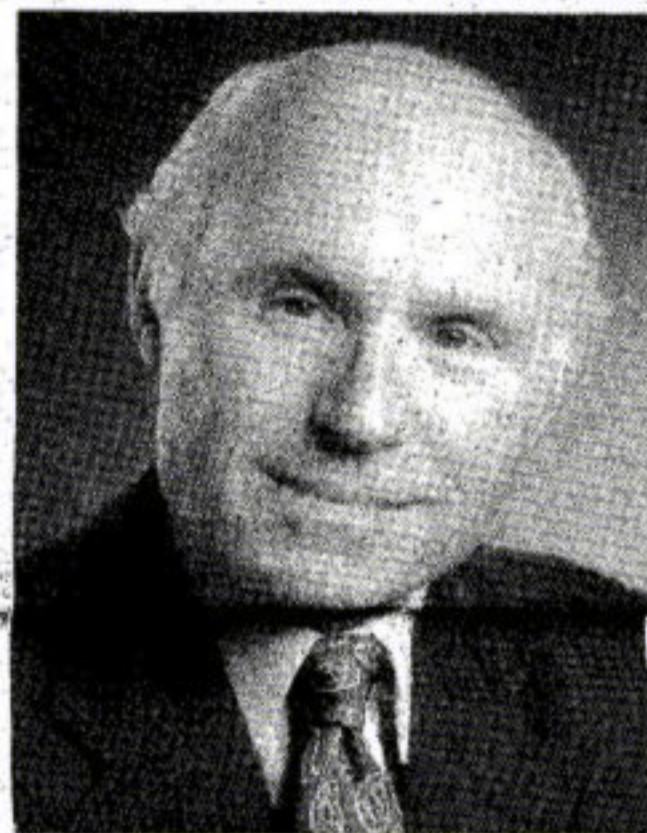
Feingold told Light that he had voted against the amendment because it was so broad that it would even prohibit counseling of a student who wanted to commit suicide because he was Gay.

Kohl's office said that Kohl voted for the Helms amendment because "it is not the place of the federal government to encourage any type of sexual activity."

Sen. Paul Wellstone (D-MN) agreed with

Feingold, saying that the Helms amendment would forbid the counseling of Gay students who, he said, are three times more likely to commit suicide as other teens. "We simply can't do that," he said, and called the amendment "very mean spirited."

"The Smith/Helms amendment, if signed into law, will have a direct and disastrous impact on Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual youth,"



Senator Herb Kohl

said Peri Jude Radevic, Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF).

"Studies indicate," Radevic continued,

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State Rep. Barbara Notestein Is Running as the Incumbent in the 19th Assembly District

State Rep. Barbara Notestein (D-Milwaukee) is the incumbent, running for reelection in the 19th Assembly District. She has long been a supporter of Gay/Lesbian interests in the Assembly. She is the author of Wisconsin's AIDS Education Law and has strongly supported efforts to improve Wisconsin's response to the epidemic and to provide adequate funding for AIDS/HIV treatment, education and services.

Notestein, 45, has won recognition for her leadership on a wide variety of women's issues. She has fought consistently to protect a woman's right to choose and has worked to put an end to sexual harassment in the workplace, domestic violence and discrimination against women.

Notestein has been honored as the Wisconsin Women's Network 1993 Stateswoman of the Year, Wisconsin NOW's 1989 Feminist of the Year, and the YWCA of Greater Milwaukee's 1994 Policy maker of the Year.

At the end of this calendar year, Notestein will have served the 19th District in the Assembly for 10 years. She currently serves as the Assembly Assistant Majority Leader, the highest ranking woman in the Assembly leadership.

Wisconsin Light: What kinds of issues have you worked on in the Assembly that you consider most important?

Barbara Notestein: I've worked on a lot of different kinds of issues in the legislature. I like my job very much. Without being too immodest, I think I'm good at it. I have spent a good deal of time on civil rights issues and women's issues, and other kinds of things that I think would be of interest to your readers.

WL: Tell us something about those.

BN: I did some legislation a few years ago to require education regarding AIDS in the public schools and that was passed and signed

into law. There is now a mandate on school districts to provide students with information on AIDS and AIDS prevention.

I sponsored legislation a number of years ago to put into law a ban on discrimination against students in the voc-tech system and the UW system. Part of that bill was to add language that banned discrimination based on



State Rep. Barbara Notestein

sexual orientation. There was nothing in the statutes to deal with that. The hope at the time that that would deal with the whole question of ROTC. Whether it has or not, I don't know.

I've done a number of other things in the area of civil rights and AIDS. This year I

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