

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-1803

August 23, 2012

Dr. Joseph Savoie  
President  
University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
104 University Circle  
Lafayette, LA 70504

Dear Dr. Savoie,

I have received your letter dated July 27, 2012, in which you addressed the regulatory policies that – by your assertions – require the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL) to continue the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) studies minor.

While I was pleased to get a response, nothing in your letter leads me to believe the University is precluded from reversing course. In fact, your lengthy response – when dissected – highlights the decision to remove the LGBT minor is held solely by the faculty of the University and no one else.

Despite assertions to the contrary, the University's response attempts to turn the program into a political soap box. It is difficult to believe your argument about being free from Congressional oversight when you then cite federal funding, appropriated by Congress, as one of the reasons it must remain. Are you suggesting that Congress should blindly appropriate monies without conducting oversight?

The future of our students and their economic prospects should be our top priority, not placating to political pressures. Diverting your limited resources to advance a political agenda at the expense of our students is unacceptable. While I appreciate your reference to the papal bull *Parens Scientiarum* by Pope Gregory IX, it does not strengthen your argument; it weakens it.

The right of self government means a university should not succumb to outside pressures. And your allowance of political pressure to implement this program not only jeopardizes the integrity of our University, but it also jeopardizes the access to courses our students need to compete in today's economy.

As we have discussed by phone and in previous correspondence, I want our young people prepared for workforce and the LGBT minor does not assist them toward that goal. Our

neighbors and students should trust that the education dollars they spend at ULL will be used to further their careers not a political agenda.

That being said – I again call on the University to allocate its time, energy, and resources on programs that increase the hiring viability and earning capacity of our students. Please do not assign the scarce assets meant for 15,000 students on a minor that serves only 5 people and offers nothing for direct employment prospects.

I hope the University will put our people over politics and end the LGBT studies minor.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Landry", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Landry  
Member of Congress