

For Immediate Release

Log Cabin Republicans of Greater St. Louis

RE: Missouri Senate Bill 578

(St. Louis) The Log Cabin Republicans of Greater St. Louis eagerly offer our support and praise for Republican Missouri Senator Charlie Shields' Senate Bill 578, a legislative initiative to ban anti-gay protests at funerals, primarily targeted at long-time Christian activist Fred Phelps. This legislation makes it unlawful to participate in any protest one hour before or one hour after any funeral service begins or ends.

Senator Shields and the Missouri Senate have shown remarkable courage and compassion for Missouri families with the introduction and committee passage of Senate Bill 578. The Log Cabin Republicans of Greater St. Louis is pleased with the success of our lobbying and educational efforts in Jefferson City and fully expect additional socially responsible equal rights legislation to be supported by Republicans in the 2006 Legislative session.

"Having worked with Senator Shields on a variety of issues in the past Legislative session, I can truly say that the Senator is a man of integrity, honor, and love for the state of Missouri. The Log Cabin Republicans of Greater St. Louis is pleased to work with Senator Shields and the entire Missouri Senate in an effort to successfully pass legislation furthering the rights of gays and lesbians in Missouri," said Charles Stadlander, President of the Log Cabin Republicans of Greater St. Louis. "This legislation sends a strong message to not only Mr. Phelps, but other anti-gay protesters that attacking a family during their most vulnerable time, especially for bigoted motives, is cruel behavior which will not be tolerated," concluded Stadlander.