

Same-Sex Marriage Facebook Comments Get Teacher Suspended

✖ A former “Teacher of the Year” at Mount Dora High School has been suspended from the classroom for a comment he made on his own personal Facebook page.

In the Facebook comment, Jerry Buell expressed his disapproval of legalized same-sex marriage in New York. The Florida educator said homosexuality is a sin and that seeing two “grooms” kissing on a news story revolted him.

School officials received a complaint about Buell’s comment on Tuesday from a 2002 Mount Dora graduate, who was never even in the teacher’s class. The Lake County School District responded by taking away his teaching privileges and reassigning him to administrative duties.

Liberty Counsel is representing Buell and demanding that he be immediately reinstated with an apology for violating his First Amendment rights. Buell has been a teacher for more than 22 years, served as the Social Studies Department chair at Mount Dora High School and taught American history and government.

Liberty Counsel argues that the school district’s response to Buell’s comments is unconstitutional. Groups who are pushing “same-sex marriage” and “marriage equality” are claiming any speech that is contrary to their viewpoint is considered “hate speech” and should be censored, the group said.

“Public school teachers are not constitutional orphans. They, like all Americans, enjoy the freedom to engage in discourse about matters of public concern,” says Harry Mihet, senior litigation counsel for Liberty Counsel.

“Mr. Buell is being investigated and punished for communicating his mainstream objection to homosexual marriage, an objection shared by a large majority of his fellow Floridians who have outlawed homosexual marriage through a constitutional amendment.

“If the First Amendment does not protect Mr. Buell’s right to voice his personal opinion, on his personal time, from his personal computer, on his personal Facebook page, then the First Amendment means nothing.”

Next Thursday, Liberty Counsel will host the Florida Awake! at the First Baptist Church of Leesburg, where Buell attends. This event will gather support from individuals in Florida to take a stand for their constitutional rights. The rally seeks to motivate, educate and equip the public to restore our nation’s values, as our founders originally intended.