

18 States Back Middle Schooler's Supreme Court Bid Over 2 Genders T-Shirt Case

A Massachusetts 8th grader is urging the U.S. Supreme Court to protect his First Amendment right to free speech after he was allegedly forced to leave school for wearing a t-shirt emblazoned with the words, "There are only two genders."

Alliance Defending Freedom, a non-profit legal group, represents 13-year-old Liam Morrison.

The ADF—along with multiple education experts, free speech advocates, and 18 states—has filed a petition with the Supreme Court asking it to take Liam's case.

As CBN News reported, the ADF argued before the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel earlier this year claiming school officials at Nichols Middle School in Middleborough violated the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment by censoring Morrison when he expressed his viewpoint last year on a t-shirt.

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In March 2023, Morrison wore that shirt to school. The principal, along with a school counselor, pulled Morrison out of class and ordered him to remove his shirt.

After Morrison politely declined, school officials said he had to remove his shirt or he could not return to class.

As a result, Morrison left school and missed the rest of his classes that day.

Then, on May 5, he was asked again to change his t-shirt when

he wore another one adorned with the message, "There are censored genders."

"I have been told that my shirt was targeting a protected class," he said. "Who is this protected class? Are their feelings more important than my rights? I don't complain when I see Pride flags and diversity posters hung throughout the school. Do you know why? Because others have a right to their beliefs just as I do. Even I, at 12 years old, have my own political opinions and I have a right to express those opinions."

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"Even at school," Morrison continued. "This right is called the First Amendment to the Constitution."

Morrison and his family filed a lawsuit against the school claiming it engaged in unconstitutional behavior when it barred the then-seventh grader's free speech while advocating for gender ideology.

However, the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals backed the school's decision to force him to remove his shirt or leave the school.

Now attorneys with the ADF are seeking the U.S. Supreme Court's intervention.

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