



# Faith In America

Religion-Based Bigotry... Let's End It Now And Forever

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## **Faith In America Joins Kennedy Family, Urges President Bush to Sign the Matthew Shepard Act/Hate Crimes Prevention Act** *Creech Issues Statement about Greenville County Grand Jury's ruling*

**Greenville, SC** – Jimmy Creech, Executive Director of Faith In America, issued the following statement regarding the Greenville County Grand Jury's ruling to charge Stephen Andrew Moller with involuntary manslaughter in connection with the death of Sean Kennedy:

**“The decision of the Greenville County Grand Jury to indict Stephen Moller for involuntary manslaughter for striking and killing Sean Kennedy underscores the need for Federal and State Hate Crime Laws that include sexual orientation and gender identity. According to evidence reported by the media, Sean Kennedy was fatally attacked solely because he was gay. Stephen Moller's vicious assault was aimed not just at Mr. Kennedy, but at everyone who is gay. Sean Kennedy was tragically the convenient available target on the early morning hours of May 16, 2007.**

**“The violent behavior of Stephen Moller is symptomatic of a social mindset hostile toward lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people that is promoted and condoned by religion-based bigotry. Hatred toward gay people is the inevitable outcome of such bigotry; and, violence, the inevitable outcome of hatred.**

**“Stephen Moller's act of violence is not an isolated occurrence. It is happening frequently throughout the nation. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender American citizens are compelled to live in constant fear of physical and psychological danger because violence against them is tolerated and/or trivialized by a public taught to believe gay people are rejected and condemned to hell by God. Such violence is not only contrary to authentic religious beliefs and practice, but is un-American.**

**“Faith In America joins with Elke Kennedy, mother of Sean Kennedy, in her appeal to President George W. Bush to sign the Matthew Shepard Act/Hate Crimes Prevention Act recently passed by the US Congress, and in her appeal to the South Carolina Legislature to enact comparable Hate Crimes Laws.”**

*Faith In America Inc., a civil rights advocacy organization, recently launched its “Call to Courage” campaign in Greenville, SC to engage local residents about the misuse of religion to sanction the legal and spiritual discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in America. More information can be found at [www.faithinamerica.com](http://www.faithinamerica.com).*

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