



October 26, 2006

The Hon. Doc Hastings
Committee on Standards of Official Conduct
1323 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Howard Berman
Committee on Standards of Official Conduct
2221 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Hastings and Rep. Berman:

Because it is of the utmost importance for the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct to review the actions of anti-gay men who themselves have been closeted in the government, I request that you investigate the possible role of Rep. John Shimkus' Chief of Staff, Craig Roberts, in the cover-up of Rep. Mark Foley's advances to House pages.

For over two years I have been reporting on individuals like Mr. Roberts. On one hand men like Mr. Roberts are engaged in political activity detrimental to the gay and lesbian community, and on the other hand engage in sexual relationships with other men. This level of hypocrisy not only has no place in our government, it actually enables men like Mr. Foley, and similarly closeted Representatives, to make psychologically unhealthy decisions. As has happened in the Foley scandal, decisions like this can lead to the putting of partisan politics above the well being of a 16-year old congressional page.

As you work to get to the bottom of how the early information about Mark Foley's predatory behavior toward teenage House pages was so badly handled, I want to direct your attention to some important questions that might contribute to your investigation.

As head of the page board, there's little question that Rep. John Shimkus poorly handled the red flags he had gotten about Mr. Foley's advances to teenagers. This behavior shocks all of us, particularly those of us in the gay community, who have long fought off untrue and vicious pedophilia stereotypes.

As a blogger, journalist, and head of Proud of Who We Are, I continue to be concerned about what the pressure of the conservative closet leads men, particularly those in conservative Republican offices, to do. Witness the vitriolic anti-gay behavior of former Rep. Ed Schrock, whom I outed two years ago. Add to that the behavior of former Rep. Mark Foley and the charges of inappropriate advances toward a teenage page by then-closeted Rep. Jim Kolbe's on a 1996 Grand Canyon rafting trip.

Aside from being in the middle of the Foley page scandal, Rep. Shimkus has a long record of antagonism to the gay community. I have recently posted information that Shimkus' Chief of Staff Craig A. Roberts is a closeted gay man.

I call on you to thoroughly question not just Rep. Shimkus, but also Mr. Roberts. The fact that he is a closeted gay man, working in the office of a congressman who is so opposed to the gay community and mishandled the Foley information so badly requires closer scrutiny.

Specifically:

- What was Mr. Roberts' role in the handling of the Foley information by Mr. Shimkus' office?
- What counsel, if any, did Mr. Roberts give to Mr. Shimkus and why?
- Did Mr. Roberts know or socialize with Mr. Foley, or have any reason to suspect that Mr. Foley was engaged in his predatory behavior? What did Mr. Roberts know, and when did he know it?

As you know, the majority party's decision to engage in a cover-up of this information when it first surfaced, brings to light many questions about such senior staffers as Mr. Roberts. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Thank you,

Mike Rogers