

## **Proud to Stand with Schriver**

by Mike Esteve on Friday, April 1, 2011 at 8:27am

Jonathon Snyder recently released a video that allegedly shows Alex Schriver lauding the off-color remarks of a state chairman at a convention after-party. In the state chair's remarks, the use of the term "nerds and f\*gs" was applied. I have been a strong supporter of Alex Schriver and his team for the last several months. In response to this video, I have the following to say:

I am an openly gay state chairman. My executive director, who leads the Maryland College Republicans alongside me, is also gay. While we were disappointed in the statements that were made in the video, we strongly believe that the video has been used irresponsibly for personal gain.

Early yesterday, before I ever had knowledge of the video, Alex Schriver called me, apologetically, describing the incident and the video in detail. Alex and members of his team are aware of my and our executive director's homosexuality, and have always been very clear in their support of both of us.

Anyone who knows Alex or has ever dealt with him knows that there is not a bigoted bone in his body. Alex is a person of integrity who bears a deep sense of respect to his friends and colleagues. My endorsement for Alex back in February came, in part, for these reasons.

My endorsement of Alex also came out of his commitment to run a race of transparency, honesty, and good intention. As such, not once has Alex or his team ever come out with vicious or inflammatory hit pieces on any of his opposition. Alex understands that such attacks, merited or not, are harmful not only to the opposition, but to the CRNC and Republicans as a whole.

Previous experience has shown us that these races, if turned into personal and character attacks, can often earn the attention of media, and harm the fundraising capability of the CRNC in subsequent years. Alex respects this reality and has, and continues to act accordingly.

As per the commentary released yesterday with the video, all sides clearly understand the consequences of such peevish character drive-bys—and yet, the video was released anyway. What was an audience of only a handful of state chairs, in a situation that was being dealt with internally, is now a quagmire, paraded before the general public and liberal media sources, who crave such rhetorical fodder.

A person of good intention would have seen this video and quietly taken it to the appropriate persons, ensuring that it was removed. Rather, persons motivated by political objectives, distributed the video, with gruesome commentary and sensationalism, knowingly creating irreparable damage to the CRNC and the conservative movement as a whole—and for what? Cheap political points?

This incident has served as a learning experience – for all of us. We must understand that as leaders of our state and national organizations, we represent the CR brand and bear the grave

responsibility of not tarnishing that brand over a fire-pit of liberal pundits and bloggers, all too eager to exploit our youthful gaffs to paint a false picture about our movement and our party.

This responsibility includes not only the self-restraint of censoring our statements, public and private, but the restraint to not extorting the mishaps of our colleagues for political gain. The responsibility lies not only on the shoulders of the person making the statement, and the person not correcting the speaker, but the person who releases and redistributes such statements to the world.

I am proud to stand by Alex, and am happy to continue to support him in his efforts to become the next College Republican National Chairman. For further questions or comments, I am accessible at [mpesteve@loyola.edu](mailto:mpesteve@loyola.edu).