

ADOPTION

Florida's anti-gay adoption ban is a national disgrace, a daily insult to gay Floridians, and a harm to the thousands of children whose prospects for adoption are diminished because bigotry eliminates qualified parents.

It is time to put children's needs ahead of anti-gay bigotry and allow prospective parents to be considered on a case-by-case basis by the experts who have children's best interest as their only concern.

The nation's leading children's advocacy groups have denounced the ban. Those who work most closely with the children affected criticize the ban. Even legislators who helped pass it almost 30 years ago now say THEY WERE WRONG and they were "caught up in the hysteria" of the times.

It is time for elected and appointed leaders to have the moral courage to do what is right. Sen. Mandy Dawson has introduced a bill that would repeal the ban and make "the best interest of the child" the only criteria for determining adoption. Senator Nan Rich has introduced a bill that allows well qualified foster parents to adopt after a period of 3 years. We support both bills.

Let the people with the expertise and children's best interest as their only concern decide on a case-by-case basis not politicians making a political statement against gay people.