

### ***Brian Silveira Speech Continued from page 2***

What an honor to receive an award from such a model Interest Forum. A group that practices and promotes the values of peace education every day. The only Interest Forum that I know that has made successful partnerships with other interest forum groups at NAEYC, thus affirming that you live by your values.

We had the pleasure of working with this group for a couple of years, linking Peace education principles with supporting LGBT families and staff, it was powerful! We had great participation because, we believe that people are hungry for this kind of deep thinking. The collaboration of our two groups is essential because violence is apparent in the lives of children, and we must do what we can to see the intersections of communities that experience it. People of color, elderly people, youth, people with different abilities, people living with AIDS, people from all parts of the world with different cultures and religions and others that

I have not mentioned, are all part of our community and are affected by violence. We are all the antidote to violence perpetuated by toxic media sensationalism, killings in the name of religion, bullying, suicide and laws that take away human rights to marginalized groups like ours. We all know that the antidote to violence is best administered to the very young!

The LGBT interest forum seeks to make the world a safe place for everyone including LGBT (and beyond) staff, parents and children.

Thank you all for the critical work you do and thank you for this award.

***Brian Silveira, San Francisco CA***

Go to [www.welcomingschools.org](http://www.welcomingschools.org) for help in supporting all families and children in our schools and communities from bullying and prejudice and misunderstanding.

## **Take Action 2017**

### ***Take Action for Children and a Peaceful World***

#### **Increase funding for childcare**

There is bi-partisan support in Congress for increasing spending for childcare and early education in the upcoming budget. Now is the time to contact your representatives and senators to let them know that the need is urgent. Federal funding for quality childcare has been decreasing each year for the last 5 years. Only 15% of eligible children now receive help. More children lose slots each year, the wait lists grow longer and families are struggling. Tell them your story about the realities you find in your community, school and/or family. \$1.4 billion is needed to ensure that funding is available to avoid further reductions in children served. This figure is dwarfed by the \$54 billion increase for the military in the proposed budget. The well-being of children and families should be the priority! Let them hear from you now! Go to [www.nationalpriorities.org](http://www.nationalpriorities.org) for details on our budget and military spending.

*The most effective way to get the attention of representatives and senators is to go to their website and write a message in the comments section on the contact page. A phone call to their office in D.C. or your home district is next best. Numbers are available at 202-224-3121.*

#### **Stop the escalation of the Syrian War.**

The news in April has been alarming. More marines are heading to Syria. US planes have bombed a

Syrian airfield. The risk of an escalating role for the US in that long, hideous war is increasing. Tell your representatives to work to end the conflict not expand it!

#### **Threats to use nuclear weapons against North Korea.**

As North Korea continues its buildup of missiles and nuclear weapons capacity, some voices in the administration are announcing that our nuclear weapons may be used in response to this threat. Just voicing this possibility is desperately dangerous! The whole world would suffer the consequences of such a nuclear attack. Let your representatives know that they must act to prevent such recklessness.

There is a bill introduced in the Senate and the House which calls on Congress to assert its Constitutional right to declare war and include the use of nuclear weapons in that power. Currently the president **alone** has the power to launch a nuclear attack. Tell your representatives to support the passage of the **Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act of 2017**. Representative Lieu and Sen. Markey have introduced H.R. 669 and S. 200 to prohibit the launch of a nuclear attack without a declaration of war by Congress. This limit on presidential power is urgently needed!

Go to [www.livableworld.org](http://www.livableworld.org) for more information