



## GLBT Advocates, Obama Slam Pres. Bush's Nominee for Surgeon General

June 8, 2007  
By Anthony Cuesta

GLBT rights activists, along with top Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama, on Thursday criticized President George W. Bush's surgeon general nominee for "anti-gay" writings.

**According to Reuters, the Human Rights Campaign, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and other groups opposed Dr. James Holsinger's nomination to be the nation's top doctor, citing a document he wrote in 1991 titled "Pathophysiology of Male Homosexuality."**

In that document written to a United Methodist Church panel studying homosexuality, Holsinger described anal sex as unnatural. Reuters reports.

"America's top doctor should be a doctor for all Americans, and so I have serious reservations about nominating someone who would inject his own anti-gay ideology into critical decisions about the health and well-being of our nation," Reuters reports Sen. Obama saying.

Obama added that "this administration must know that the United States Surgeon General's office is no place for bigotry or ideology that would trump sound science and good judgment."

Holsinger served as Kentucky's health secretary and chancellor of the University of Kentucky's medical center. He taught at several medical schools and spent more than three decades in the Army Reserve, retiring in 1993 as a major general.

His supporters, including fellow doctors, faculty members and state officials, said he would never let his theological views affect his medical ones.

"Jim is able, as most of us are in medicine, to separate feelings that we have from our responsibility in taking care of patients," said Douglas Scutchfield, a professor of public health at the University of Kentucky.

But Christina Gilgor, director of gay rights group Kentucky Fairness Alliance, told the Associated Press that she disagrees.

"He has a pretty clear bias against gays and lesbians," she said to the AP. "This ideology flies in the face of current scientific medical studies. That makes me uneasy that he rejects science and promotes ideology."

In announcing Holsinger as his choice on May 24, Pres. Bush said the physician will focus on educating the public about childhood obesity.

