



Calls to Try Killer of Gay Teen as Minor

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Leading LGBT rights groups are appealing as a 27-member coalition to the Ventura, California district attorney to try Brandon McInerney, 14, who on February 12 shot and killed his gay classmate Larry King, 15, as a minor. McInerney has been charged as an adult.

A statement from the group said, "One boy killed another in a climate of intolerance and fear about sexual orientation and gender expression." While they acknowledge the horror of the crime and want McInerney held accountable, their appeal said, "We support the principles underlying the juvenile justice system that treat children differently than adults and provide greater opportunity and hope for rehabilitation."

Among the signatories are Equality California, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), the National Black Justice Coalition, the Human Rights Campaign, the **National Gay and Lesbian Task Force**, the National Center for Transgender Equality, and chapters of the American Civil Liberties Union.