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Missouri Courage Scholarship's PENCE Campaign to Raise Funds for LGBTQ Scholarships

(St. Louis, Missouri – November 7, 2017) Missouri Courage Scholarship (MCS) is proud to announce the Pride through Education, Networks & Civic Engagement (PENCE) Campaign to fund awards for LGBTQ students creating change in their schools and communities through education, outreach, and community organizing. MCS recognizes the need to support the next generation of LGBTQ leaders who are defending the hard-won progress of LGBTQ people currently under attack¹. We must support LGBTQ youth at a time when bigotry and division are the most coherent messages coming from our nation's leaders.

For each donation, MCS will send a note to the White House with a simple message: "I support LGBTQ students and their rights. So should you."

MCS founder and co-chair, Jacob Wilson, said of MCS' PENCE campaign, "Nearly each day a story breaks of how this Administration is undermining the rights of LGBTQ people. It is up to our community and our allies to have the backs of LGBTQ youth, especially when our elected leaders do not. It is deeply disturbing to hear the President of the United States joking about murdering LGBTQ people². MCS wants to counter that hate with a message to LGBTQ youth across Missouri—have courage and know that you are loved, have value, and deserve respect."

MCS acknowledges, affirms, and rewards college bound students who demonstrate courage and take a stand for social justice. All money raised through the PENCE Campaign will fund scholarships for college bound seniors.

MCS is a federally-recognized 501c3 organization; all donations are tax-exempt. Visit our website at www.courage-scholarship.org.

1. Michael Shear & Charlie Savage, *In one day, Trump Administration lands 3 punches against gay rights*. The New York Times, July 27, 2017

2. Eugene Scott, *Trump's joke about Mike Pence affirms the long-held concerns of many in the LGBT community*. The Washington Post, October 17, 2017