



Homophobe Embraces AIDS Denialism

January 11, 2012 By [Oriol R. Gutierrez Jr.](#)

The extreme religious right in the United States often uses HIV/AIDS to scare their faithful into submission. Don't repeal the Defense of Marriage Act because it prevents HIV, which causes AIDS, [they say](#). Make your gay kids straight, [they say](#), because if you don't your kids are going to get HIV, which causes AIDS.

Obviously, I disagree with their point of view. That said, I do agree with them about one thing -- HIV causes AIDS. That small common ground didn't seem like much, until now.

Bryan Fischer is director of issues analysis for the [American Family Association](#) (AFA), which calls itself "one of the largest and most effective pro-family organizations in the country." However, the Southern Poverty Law Center, a civil rights group, calls the AFA a hate group. Among many other distinctions, AFA is well known as an [anti-gay group](#).

Fischer hosts the talk radio show *Focal Point* on American Family Radio and writes for the AFA blog Rightly Concerned. In a video clip from his program posted by [RightWingWatch.org](#) that I ran across at the LGBT blog [Joe.My.God](#), Fischer comes out as an AIDS denialist.

Watch the clip:

In the clip, Fischer claims that researchers invented HIV as the cause of AIDS so that they could get funding. Then he asks [Peter Duesberg](#), a longtime AIDS denialist, what really causes AIDS. His answer is that recreational drugs and promiscuous sex are to blame, not HIV.

[In his blog](#), Fischer doubles down on his new AIDS denialist beliefs by claiming that Magic Johnson is "healthy as a horse" because HIV does not cause AIDS.

In 2011, [Fischer compared gays to Nazis](#) -- literally. In 2010, he said we were "[stuck with sexual deviants](#)" in response to the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. I could go on and on, but you get the point. Fischer is undoubtedly a homophobe.

However, embracing AIDS denialism takes his homophobia to an all-time low. To stick it to the gays, Fischer now promotes pseudoscience. Advancing pseudoscience is always dangerous, but in this case, it's mostly just sad.
