



## VIRGINIA ATTORNEY GENERAL HERRING WON'T DEFEND GAY MARRIAGE BAN

By Danielle Kirsh

In this Jan. 23, 2014 file photo, Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring speaks at a news conference at his office in Richmond, Va. A federal judge will hear arguments Tuesday, Feb. 4, on whether Virginia's ban on gay marriage is unconstitutional. Herring, the state's newly elected Democratic attorney general, said he has already decided to side with the plaintiffs and will not defend the ban. (AP Photo/Richmond Times-Dispatch, Bob Brown, File).

The Virginia attorney general has deemed that the ban on gay marriage is unconstitutional and he will no longer support the amendment.

Usually, the state attorney general defends lawsuits against the state, but the newly elected Democratic Attorney General Mark Herring said he will support the gay couples who have filed lawsuits and are challenging Virginia's ban on marriage.

There are currently two lawsuits filed that are challenging whether the ban on gay marriage is constitutional or not; one

of which is based in Norfolk.

Herring said, "I have concluded that Virginia's ban on marriage between same-sex couples violates the due process and equal protection clauses of the 14th amendment to United States Constitution."

Herring's decision comes weeks after Governor Terry McAuliffe issued an executive order that prohibited discrimination against state employees who are gay.

Prior to being elected attorney general, Herring served eight years as a state senator representing parts

of Loudoun and Fairfax counties in Northern Virginia.

In 2006, Herring helped make the gay marriage banning amendment happen by supporting a declaration allowing Virginia voters to vote on the amendment. Voters approved of constitutional amendment, banning gay marriage in Virginia.

When Herring put in his bid to run for attorney general, he changed his stance on gay marriage stating in his "Equality Agenda" that he believes "all Virginians deserve equal protection under the law."

## NSU QUESTIONS YOUR COMPETENCY

An Editorial by  
Kallie Gould

I can't imagine anyone making it out of high school without having typed a Word document, making multiple Power Point presentations or using the internet. Most of us do these things and then some just from our cell phones.

TCC offers a Computer Competency Test to meet graduation requirements-- free of charge-- which requires a grade of 70 percent or better to pass and may only be attempted twice. So I technically graduated without ever taking a computer class but being certified as competent as far as technology was concerned. Yet NSU doesn't seem to think this means anything.

So here I am, a junior who transferred in with an Associates of Science degree from Tidewater Community College, having met their computer competency requirements for graduation, taking CSC 150-Computer Literacy at NSU.

I'm learning about USB storage devices and blogs, meanwhile my parents are calling me from four states away to help with their home wireless network I set up or any other computer problems that might arise. I am my parent's own personal twenty-four-seven "geek squad."

But NSU neglects to give me the chance to show them any of this, they'd rather charge me for the required three credit hours than simply take the courteous route that so many of our neighboring universities take-- a simple computer competency test.

Old Dominion University offers a Computer and Technological Literacy Examination (CTLE) to meet their computer skills requirement in lieu of course work for those who are technologically competent.

Virginia Commonwealth University gives students a similar option-- either a series of three one credit courses or a proficiency assessment.

Christopher Newport Univer-

sity does not offer a computer proficiency exam; however, they do honor a VCCS degree to meet "lower-level liberal learning core (general education) requirements," stated Amber Holland, Transfer Enrollment Coordinator. Meaning you would only have to take the lower level prerequisite computer courses if your major specifically required higher computer courses to be completed.

When contacted for comment, NSU stated, "Norfolk State University did offer a computer proficiency test as an option to test out of the required CSC 150. However, due to low passing rates, this practice was eliminated. Dr. Sandra DeLoatch, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dr. Larry Mattix, Dean of the College of Science, Engineering and Technology, will be addressing this issue with the University's Curriculum Committee in the near future."

How convenient? Because students prior to me were ill prepared to pass an exam, I am now denied the option and forced to fit (and pay for \$795) three credit hours in my schedule. Did the university consider charging an examination fee to deter slackers from wasting everyone's time? Or perhaps instating a pre-test before being allowed to take the computer proficiency test? No, evidently they just got rid of it and are now opportunely going to "address the issue...in the near future" now that someone has bothered to ask.

That's great for students in the near future, but if you'll excuse me, I have to type a resume in Microsoft Word and create a group power point presentation. Sadly, I'm pretty sure I learned this back in tenth grade.