

Media Contact: Brad White

National Youth Rights Association
4238B North Arlington Heights Road #211
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60004-7931
Phone 847 420 5684 FAX 847 792 4060
Email NYRA@jambolt.com
Web www.youthrights.org



National Youth Rights Association
P.O. Box 5882 N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016

Press Release

National Youth Rights Association speaks out against Supreme Court ruling made today on drug testing.

Washington, D.C., June 27, 2002: The National Youth Rights Association (NYRA) is deeply saddened by the Supreme Court ruling made today which allows public middle and high schools to require drug tests for students in extracurricular activities without violating their privacy rights.

"It is doubtful Justices Thomas or Scalia would much appreciate having to pee into a cup for random, unreasonable searches and it is hypocritical to allow this practice for American students," NYRA Executive Director and President Alex Koroknay-Palicz said. In a world of ever increasing penalties, restrictions and 'zero-tolerance' for students, it is frightening to note that even ones own body is not safe from prying government schools. A random, irrational search is the very definition of an unreasonable search that the 4th Amendment protects us against. Students are US Citizens and deserve the same standards of constitutional protections that the adult population enjoys. It is very hypocritical for a 'freedom loving people' to raise its children in an atmosphere of suspicion, intrusion, and oppression. "Students who are accustomed to no privacy, no rights, and no freedom will grow up to be adults accustomed to no privacy, no rights, and no freedom, and heaven help us all," Koroknay-Palicz said.

The National Youth Rights Association, founded in 1998, is the largest youth rights organization in the country. With principal offices in Washington, D.C., and Chicago, NYRA is growing rapidly. NYRA currently has six chapters with many more in the works. NYRA has also spoken at many conferences on youth rights and has been featured on CNN multiple times. More information is available on NYRA at: www.youthrights.org

For immediate requests to speak with Koroknay-Palicz, call (301) 738 6769. All other requests to Brad White. (contact information above)

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