

## Teenâ€™s antiabortion club gets green light

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- Virginia high school officials recently gave a green light to a teenâ€™s request for a once-banned after-school antiabortion club, the Washington Post reported. "We just wanted the same rights as other clubs," 16-year-old Stephanie Hoffmeier told the Post. "It's not a radical thing to expect equal treatment." Stafford County, Virginia, school officials initially denied Hoffmeierâ€™s spring request to host the club, which opposes abortion and promotes sexual abstinence, saying the club was not associated with school curriculum. Hoffmeier filed a lawsuit in September contending the decision violated her free-speech rights because other clubs with religious or political missions existed at Colonial Forge High School. "There is a discomfort with religious speech in the schools, even when it's engaged in by students, which should not be the case," David Cortman, a lawyer with Arizonaâ€™s Alliance Defense Fund, which assisted Hoffmeier, told the Post. School officials reversed themselves, and Hoffmeier dropped the suit. About 20 people attended the clubâ€™s first meeting.

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