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## **L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center Criticizes MLB Commissioner Bud Selig for Addressing L.A. Boy Scouts Gala, Urges Him to Educate Attendees About Real Character**

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 1, 2011— Major League Baseball Commissioner Allan “Bud” Selig is scheduled to deliver a keynote address tonight at the annual Boy Scouts of America’s (BSA) Character Counts Gala in Los Angeles. While Selig has publicly stated that “Major League Baseball is a social institution that brings people together and welcomes all individuals of different races, religions, genders, national origins and sexual orientations into its ballparks,” his appearance at an event for an organization known for discrimination throws a major curveball at the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community.

In response to Selig’s scheduled appearance at the “Character Counts” Gala of the Los Angeles Area Council of the BSA, L.A. Gay & Lesbian CEO Lorri L. Jean issued the following statement:

“Mr. Selig’s participation and support of an event held by the anti-gay Boy Scouts of America only sends one message—that inequality and discrimination are acceptable. In the past, Selig has taken a hard stance against discrimination and fined MLB employees for using homophobic slurs. He has publicly condemned the hateful behavior of certain players and coaches like John Rocker, Ozzie Guillen, and most recently, Roger McDowell—and almost a third of Major League Baseball teams this year participated in the ‘It Gets Better’ campaign. Mr. Selig’s outward support of Boy Scouts of America completely contradicts all of these steps forward and his claimed intolerance of discrimination in Major League Baseball.

Ironically, the Boy Scouts of America Los Angeles Area Council touts their event as one that is ‘making an investment in character’ and is themed ‘Character Counts.’ Investing in homophobia or discrimination of any kind is anything but an investment in character! At a time when bullying in schools is a major issue facing our country’s youth, to support an organization that promotes discrimination against youth only fuels the fire of bullies. If he delivers his keynote address as planned, we implore Mr. Selig to tell the Boy Scouts of America that people of true character welcome diversity and accept all for who they are.”

**About the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center**

Since 1971 the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center has been building the health, advocating for the rights and enriching the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Our wide array of services and programs includes: free HIV/AIDS care and medications for those most in need; housing, food, clothing and support for homeless LGBT youth; low-cost counseling and addiction-recovery services; essential services for LGBT-parented families and seniors; legal services; health education and HIV prevention programs; transgender services; cultural arts and much more. Visit us on the Web at: [www.lagaycenter.org](http://www.lagaycenter.org).