

Protecting Marriage in Indiana

Why should marriage be defined in our constitution?

Many people have argued that marriage in Indiana is already protected by our current laws, including the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). Unfortunately, after the Supreme Judicial Court in Massachusetts drastically redefined marriage, Indiana's DOMA will likely be deemed unconstitutional at any time by activist judges. A constitutional amendment protecting marriage is the *only* way to protect marriage from state judges.

Why shouldn't same-sex couples receive the same benefits that heterosexual couples receive?

Nearly all benefits of marriage are already available to same-sex partners. These benefits can be secured through a will, co-ownership of property or assigning a power of attorney to an individual. Homosexual activists are not truly seeking benefits – rather, they are seeking legitimization of their relationships through the formal, legal recognition of marital benefits.

How does same-sex marriage affect my family and society?

Changing the definition of marriage to include same-sex couples forces all of us to radically change our understanding of family. This is not merely about tolerance; it is about forcing everyone to accept homosexual relationships as equal to marriage. Children will be taught that same-sex marriage is the equivalent of traditional marriage and that traditional gender roles are merely an option in family structures. Research shows that children do best in mother-father households. Same-sex marriage intentionally denies children either a mother or a father.

What can we do to protect marriage in Indiana?

We can change our state constitution to make it crystal clear – no misinterpreting laws – that marriage in Indiana will remain between one man and one woman. While it has passed several steps, such a change (the “marriage protection amendment”) continues to be debated within the Indiana House of Representatives. If this amendment passes the House, the definition of traditional one-man, one-woman marriage will be placed on the November 2008 ballot and Hoosiers will decide whether to preserve it in the Indiana constitution.

Take politics out of this critical question! Let Hoosiers decide.

This is the crux of the issue, regardless of how either side ‘spins’ the issue: Should you and I be able to have a say on whether we want to see gay marriage ushered into our Hoosier state, or, rather, would we prefer a judge declare it as part of some court case decision in the future? Common sense tells us that the voters should decide this historic question through a rare but common voice – a ballot question. That’s just what House Speaker Pat Bauer doesn’t want you to have, and we don’t think one man should use his power to keep us all from having our say.

What can you do?

Immediately contact your Representative in the Indiana House of Representatives, and also the Speaker of the House, Pat Bauer. Call the phone bank center at 1-800-382-9842. You will get an operator who will take a message, “Please pass SJR 7, the marriage amendment, so I can vote to protect marriage in my community”.

Questions?

Call the Indiana Family Institute at 317-423-9178 or visit www.hoosierfamily.org.