



Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage

COMMITTEE ON LAITY, MARRIAGE, FAMILY LIFE AND YOUTH

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February 19, 2014

Representative Tim Huelskamp
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Huelskamp,

As the Chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage, I write in strong support of your resolution, H. J. Res. 51, the Marriage Protection Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Recently, a number of federal courts have ruled against the constitutionality of state marriage laws that honor the reality of marriage as the union of one man and one woman. Just last week, a judge for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia ruled Virginia's marriage amendment unconstitutional. Similarly, in January, a judge for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma ruled that Oklahoma's marriage amendment is unconstitutional. Both of these decisions are part of a trend that began last December when a judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Utah declared Utah's marriage amendment unconstitutional. Also last week, a judge for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Kentucky said that Kentucky must recognize out-of-state same-sex "marriages." This decision is similar to one last December by a federal judge in Ohio regarding the recognition of out-of-state same-sex "marriages." It is my hope that these fundamentally flawed decisions will be overturned on appeal. Given the litigation pending in federal courts around the country, more bad decisions using the U.S. Constitution to strike down state marriage laws may be on the horizon.

An amendment to the U.S. Constitution is the only remedy in law against this judicial activism that may ultimately end with federal judges declaring that the U.S. Constitution requires states, and consequently the federal government, to redefine marriage. Just as *Roe v. Wade* mandated a constitutional right to abortion throughout the country, we now have the possibility of another bad decision mandating a constitutional change in the meaning of marriage in order to promote (at least to begin with) "marriages" between two people of the same sex throughout the country. Your proposed Marriage Protection Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is, therefore, a needed remedy. The amendment would secure in law throughout the country the basic truth known to reason that marriage is the union of one man and one woman. Preserving this elemental truth is necessary for the good of society at large and for the good of children who deserve the love of both a mother and a father, neither of whom is expendable. Indeed, marriage is the only institution that unites a man and a woman to each other and to any child conceived of their union. Federal court opinions that essentially redefine marriage to be merely a state recognized arrangement of intimate adult relationships ignore the truth about marriage, which deserves the highest protection in law.

I am, therefore, very pleased to support the Marriage Protection Amendment and urge your colleagues to join H. J. Res. 51 as cosponsors. Thank you for introducing in the House of Representatives this needed resolution to amend the U.S. Constitution.

Sincerely,

Most Reverend Salvatore J. Cordileone
Archbishop of San Francisco
Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage