

Religious Freedom Coalition

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Washington, DC - May 2005 -- For Immediate Release

STATEMENT OF THE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM COALITION ON PROTECTING MARRIAGE

Marriage has always been seen an institution for conceiving and rearing children, for establishing a family and preserving inheritances, for taking care of the sick and the elderly. Because of the importance of these functions governments have always had an interest in supporting marriage.

The ideal environment in which to raise a child is in a home with a married mother and father, and many objective studies continue to show this to be true. Children from single parent homes are statistically more likely to have poor health, to perform less well in school, to drop out of school, to get pregnant at a young age, and to abuse alcohol and drugs. A cohabiting adult in the home is not a substitute for a parent, either. Both women and their children are significantly more likely to experience physical or sexual abuse in a cohabiting situation than they are in a home where the parents are married. Yet too many governments, through welfare and taxation policies, reward cohabitation more than marriage.

Western nations are now experimenting with the time tested, traditional family structure and are instituting same sex marriages and civil unions. Such policies can only weaken traditional marriage. As for civil unions, these will be open to heterosexual as well as same sex couples. Many heterosexuals will choose this alternative because they can take advantage of certain insurance and financial benefits, but without the level of commitment demanded by a marriage, since dissolution of a civil union is much easier.

Many polls show that legalization of same sex marriage is unwanted by a large majority of American citizens. Proponents may not fully realize the potential for harm if either civil unions or marriages for homosexuals become the law of the land. There will be an endless barrage of legal assaults against pastors and others who dare to speak out or even to quote verses of Scripture which condemn homosexuality. Children in the public schools will be subjected to "how to" homosexual education and indoctrination, and any teachers who object will likely face lawsuits and loss of employment.

Eighteen States have passed marriage protection amendments to their constitutions in recent months. The American people deserve federal action protecting the institution of marriage.

The Religious Freedom Coalition believes that for the sake of our country and future generations we should stand in defense of the institution of marriage and protect the traditional family unit which is the basis of any healthy society.

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