



February 22, 2010

Senator
Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: DC Marriage Referendum

Dear Senator:

As you know, Senator Bennett recently introduced legislation that would prevent the government of the District of Columbia from issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples until the residents of the District have had the opportunity to vote “to establish that ‘only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in the District of Columbia’.”

Understanding that the District is scheduled to begin issuing same-sex marriage licenses next month if Senator Bennett’s bill is not passed, it is important for Senators to work quickly on a bipartisan effort on behalf of the people of the District, people that Article I, Section 8, Clause 17 states it is your duty to represent.

The people of the District of Columbia have long been proclaiming they have no representation on the Hill. Now is the time for you to show them that you understand the Constitution and that you will vigorously represent them by providing citizens in the District the same opportunity that the citizens of thirty-one states have had – the opportunity to affirm the definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

We not only encourage you to act on behalf of the people in the District, but we also urge you to act on behalf of those we represent in all fifty states. The undersigned comprise some of the largest multiracial, multiethnic, and multigenerational faith-based and policy organizations in the country, representing more than 30 million people. The people of the states will be directly affected by the District of Columbia with respect to same-sex marriage. The people whom we represent expect each member of the Senate to take action to permit the people in the District of Columbia the opportunity to vote by referendum on this most important issue of marriage.

We appreciate you doing all that you can to ensure that your colleagues, including Leader Reid, are aware of their constitutional duty, and we, on behalf of the residents of the District, thank you in advance for your vocal support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Mathew D. Staver
Founder and Chairman
Liberty Counsel

Tim Wildmon
President
American Family Association

Gary Bauer
President
American Values

Jesse Lee Peterson
Founder and President
BOND Action

Deacon Keith Fournier
Editor in Chief
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The Honorable Kenneth Blackwell
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Phyllis Schlafly
Founder and President
Eagle Forum

Tony Perkins
President
Family Research Council

Dr. Cindy Jacobs
President
Generals International

Bishop Harry Jackson
Senior Pastor
Hope Christian Church

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Dr. Richard Land
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Rev. Louis P. Sheldon
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Traditional Values Coalition

Dr. Rick Scarborough
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Vision America

David Barton
Founder and President
WallBuilders