

➤ ACTION ALERT ◀

The State Senate is now considering SB 1250 The Pennsylvania Marriage Protection Amendment

- **Pennsylvania is facing the debate over same-sex marriage right now. The question is: will the people of Pennsylvania decide how to define marriage or will a judge?**

Twenty-seven states have already amended their constitutions in order to define marriage as between one man and one woman. It is time for Pennsylvania to follow suit and give the people of this Commonwealth the opportunity to determine how they would like to define marriage. Pennsylvania law already states that marriage is between one man and one woman, but in Iowa, a judge ruled that state's Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) unconstitutional. Courts in other states ordered same-sex marriage, also called civil unions. Courts in Pennsylvania could do the same.

Pennsylvania cannot avoid this debate. Therefore, the voters should be allowed to decide the fate of marriage by amending the state constitution before a judge makes that determination. SB 1250 - the Pennsylvania Marriage Protection Amendment - starts the process to put the question about marriage on the ballot.

TIPS FOR LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

- Limit your communication to one specific legislative subject.
- Ask the official to tell you his or her position on the matter.
- Speak or write in your own words.
- Be brief.
- Explain why you are taking your particular position.
- Do not assume that your official is well informed about a given issue.
- Refer to bills by number or popular title (e.g. - Senate Bill 1250, the Marriage Protection Amendment).
- Ask for a response.
- Be timely.
- Be accurate and courteous.
- Always keep copies of correspondence.

Visits, phone calls, letters and e-mails from constituents can have a great influence on the vote of a legislator. Take a minute or two to voice your opinion in support of marriage.

Log on to www.pacatholic.org to look up contact information for your legislator or send him or her an e-mail in just a few clicks.

- **Allowance of same-sex marriage permeates every aspect of society.**

Redefining marriage means that all state-sanctioned activities will have to accommodate the new law. In Massachusetts, for example, birth certificates now list "parent A" and "parent B" instead of "mother" and "father." Also, starting in elementary school, children are being taught that two moms or two dads are the same as one mom and one dad.

In New Jersey, due to the state's allowance of same-sex marriage -- which they call civil unions -- mayors and judges refusing to conduct civil union marriage ceremonies risk prosecution and a Methodist church group there lost its state tax exempt status for refusing to allow civil union marriage ceremonies on its property.

- **Marriage makes a difference.**

Traditional marriage provides fundamental benefits to society- mainly, the protection of family and in particular, children. Research demonstrates that one mother and one father joined in a stable marriage is the best possible situation for raising children. Certainly, not every family fits this model, but redefining marriage and creating state-sanctioned motherless and fatherless families discounts everything we know to be true about marriage.

In countries that allow same-sex marriage, marriage rates have declined while out-of-wedlock births have skyrocketed. Once marriage ceases to be about binding mothers and fathers together for the good of their children, the desire to marry gradually disappears.

Defending marriage as the union between one man and one woman is best for society and is worth protecting.

**Contact your state legislator and ask him or her to please support SB 1250
The Pennsylvania Marriage Protection Amendment**



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