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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0604

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Dear Colleague,

Please join a bipartisan effort to protect and defend the legal status of marriage from imminent destruction. Please co-sponsor H. J. Res. 56, the Federal Marriage Amendment.

As you know, for over 200 years here in America (and centuries around the world) marriage has been the legal union between a man and a woman. However, recent and pending court decisions are putting the legal definition of marriage in jeopardy.

In the last few years, judges in both Hawaii and Alaska re-wrote the definition of marriage. The people of those states responded by passing an amendment to their state Constitution to protect and defend marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

During that same time period, Congress passed the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) to protect the federal definition of marriage and protect states from being forced to accept homosexual marriages from other states.

Most experts agree that current and pending court cases will throw away all legal protections of marriage as a union of a man and a woman. Following the examples in Hawaii and Alaska, the only way to protect and defend marriage will be to pass a Constitutional Amendment on the question of marriage.

The Federal Marriage Amendment is a modest approach. It will define marriage nationwide but leave all other family law and marital benefit issues to state lawmakers. The issue of so-called "civil unions" will be left up to the people and their state lawmakers as well.

The Federal Marriage Amendment protects current settled marriage law and is a common sense, limited, federalist approach that will resolve the issue by taking it out of the hands of a few unelected judges and putting it back in the hands of the American people and elected lawmakers of every state.

What is important to note, is the American people have reached consensus about the provisions in the amendment. A few years ago, Congress passed the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) by an overwhelming bipartisan margin in response to a similar issue. Since then, 36 of the 38 states needed to ratify this amendment have already passed a state Defense of Marriage law.

I hope you will join me and take a stand to protect and defend marriage. Please contact John Headley by e-mail or phone (x 54676) in my office to co-sponsor.

Sincerely,



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